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90p



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# Near miss ordeal steps up crossing campaign

by Kathie Griffiths  
[kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk)

A school-run mum has described the dramatic moment she saved her son from being struck by a car – with just an inch to spare.

Kirsten Barr fears if her reactions had been seconds slower, her four-year-old son would have been seriously hurt or worse on the unofficial crossing point outside Lochnell School in Benderloch, which is used around 600 times a week.

'The car was just an inch away from him. I pulled Jamie back and just fell on my knees in tears squeezing him as tight as I could,' she said.

The near-miss on the busy A828 has further fuelled a long-time campaign by parents calling for a safe crossing.

GP Beth Davies, who is also a school mum, has now created a Facebook page and set up an online survey to log people's experiences and thoughts about the road.



Kirsten Barr with children DJ, 5, Amy, 2, and Jamie, 4.

'When I was working in A&E in Glasgow I've had to resuscitate children and adults who have been hit by cars. I don't want to have to do that outside my children's school. Our campaign wants to make a positive change but not one that is tainted by tragedy,' she said.

The web survey at [tinyurl.com/lochnell](http://tinyurl.com/lochnell) got 190 responses in its first 24 hours.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has also been lobbied for action, along

with Transport Scotland, BEAR Scotland, the police, Argyll and Bute Council and Ardchattan Community Council.

A Transport Scotland survey last September showed majority speeds passing the school reached 31.8mph when the 20mph sign was flashing at the start and end of the pupils' day.

DJ Barr, whose son was involved in last week's near-miss, fears incidents like it are getting so frequent now

that some parents are starting to accept it as being 'normal'.

'Every week something like this is happening and it's just becoming the norm because it's happening so often. It's terrifying. People must not accept it. We have to act and we have to act now. This is real danger. All near-misses must be reported to police,' he said.

When Lochnell school was smaller, parents dropping off or collecting children used the car park immediately outside it but staff grew uneasy at the safety of children

with vehicles and buses coming and going, so parents were 'advised' to use the car park on the other side of the road, said Mr Barr who is now a member of Ardchattan Community Council.

After last week's near-miss, he fired off emails to powers-that-be, including the first minister. The crossing issue has been on Lochnell Parent Council's agenda and again when it met on Tuesday.

Police have also been carry-

ing out speed-checks outside the school when resources have allowed. It is understood on one such occasion earlier this year, eight people were cautioned and one was charged.

This week BEAR Scotland said it will be reviewing the approaches to the school before March next year 'to see if anything could be improved or introduced to reduce vehicle speeds and increase road safety at Lochnell.'

Argyll and Bute councillors Kieron Green and Elaine Robertson have pledged support and a meeting is being organised with campaigners, relevant authorities and agencies. BEAR Scotland has also confirmed it will be meeting with community councillors.

Community councillor Willie Barnett, who supports campaigning parents 100 per cent, said there needed to be an emergency meeting: 'Do we really need to wait for a child to be hurt or killed before we get a safe crossing? It's appalling.'

### Sealife sanctuary set to close

The Scottish Sealife Sanctuary in Barcaldine will close its doors on October 31 unless a buyer is found.

Merlin Entertainments made the 'agonising' decision to put the attraction up for sale after concluding the centre was 'unsustainable'.

If a buyer is not found the doors will close and the animals relocated to one of the other 11 sealife sanctuaries across the UK.

The sanctuary in Barcaldine opened in 1979 and currently has 11 members of staff.

Craig Dunkerley head of Merlin Entertainments Midway Attractions said the company would try to find roles within Merlin for all the staff: 'As a business, it's not sustainable any more. It needs significant investment. We have spent several years exploring every single option as to how we can make it sustainable, but it's reaching a point where it's not.'

'Tourism is declining, our numbers are in decline, it's not a decision we have taken lightly. I think all of us involved in our company are devastated. It really has been an agonising decision.'

Loch Lomond Sealife Sanctuary will remain open.

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## Angus MacColl crowned piping champ

Benderloch piper Angus MacColl was crowned overall champion at the Northern Meeting piping competition in Inverness on Friday, once again lifting the coveted quaich.

Earlier on Thursday Dr Peter McCallister from Dunblane triumphed as the Inverness gold medallist for 2018, while Ross McCrindle from Edinburgh took the silver medal.

The Gold Clasp competition, the height of achievement for any piper, such as the senior piobaireachd at the Argyllshire Gathering, was won for the third time by Callum Beaumont of Dollar, who is still aged under 30.

Angus MacColl, who is pipe major of Oban High School Pipe Band, came second, having taken the title four times before.

Stuart Liddell of Inveraray came first in the hornpipe and jig, and Ross Connor from Campbeltown won the under-18 march, Strathspey and reel.

## Pressure mounts to change law after inquiry

The Scottish Government is supporting a judge's recommendation to make lifejackets compulsory for all fishermen working on open decks at sea, after concluding the fatal accident inquiry (FAI) into the death of Scott MacAlister.

The UK Government, which has responsibility for safety at sea, is now looking into changing the law.

Reacting to Sheriff Patrick Hughes' ruling, Argyll and Bute's SNP MSP Michael Russell said: 'Given the sheriff has concluded that wearing a lifejacket might have been instrumental in securing a different outcome from the tragic result of the sinking of the Speedwell, I hope serious consideration will be given by [the UK] Government to implementing the recommendation.'

Dr Alasdair Allan, SNP MSP for Na h-Eileanan an Iar, added: 'Fishermen in recent years have been choosing to wear lifejackets and flotation devices

more and more. The recommendations of the FAI around this tragic case will strengthen this trend further. These findings mean we are now at the point where new rule-changes may well be needed.'

The Conservative Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron agreed that 'there is real merit in the sheriff's recommendation'. However, he added: 'It is right that all politicians engage the views of the industry first before coming to a final conclusion on this matter, not least because there are operational implications.'

Argyll and Bute's SNP MP Brendan O'Hara also agreed: 'If the law was to change then it absolutely must include consultation with the skippers and crew of our vital fishing vessels.'

Highlands and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant (Lab) said 67 per cent of commercial fishermen who drowned between 2000 and 2014 were not wearing a

lifejacket. 'Gone are the days when it could be argued that these devices were bulky and got in the way of work,' Ms Grant said. 'There are now so many on the market to choose from people can find ones that are fit for purpose and also save lives.'

The Marine and Coastguard Agency (MCA) said it was working to deliver 'zero preventable deaths' in the sector: 'We are in the process of revising the Fishing Vessel Codes of Practice and developing policy to implement the Work in Fishing Convention ILO 188 to improve living and working conditions in the UK fishing industry.'

'The implementation of ILO 188 into UK law will, when laid before Parliament, give the MCA the framework to enforce the wearing of personal flotation devices unless measures are in place which eliminate the risk of fishermen falling overboard.'

## FAI urges

by Sandy Neil  
sneil@obantimes.co.uk



A fatal accident inquiry into the death of Luing skipper Scott MacAlister, who drowned when the trawler Speedwell sank off Easdale five years ago, has recommended lifejackets should be compulsory for all fisherman working on open decks.

The inquiry into the death of the 40-year-old father of three, headed by Sheriff Patrick Hughes at Oban Sheriff Court in June, heard evidence from search and rescue crews, investigators, Mr MacAlister's father Peter, former crew and the Speedwell's owner John Connell.

Sheriff Hughes published his findings on Friday August 31, beginning: 'Scott MacAlister died in the Firth of Lorne, at a point approximately two cables, or 400 yards, south of Insh Island, on April 25 2013 at approximately 1.08pm.'

'The cause of death was drowning. The accident which resulted in the death was the

sinking of a fishing vessel, the Speedwell, of which Mr MacAlister was skipper and sole occupant.

'The sinking was caused by the vessel's aft compartment becoming flooded by seawater coming in through the aft deck hatch, which was not secure or watertight. The increasing weight of this water, combined with a loss of stability due to the 'free surface effect' of the water's movement inside the vessel's aft compartment, caused the boat to sink.'

The accident and Mr MacAlister's death might have been avoided, Sheriff Hughes ruled, 'if the vessel's owner and skipper had ensured that the vessel was in seaworthy condition.'

In particular, he added, if they had ensured 'the problem with the aft hatch, which had already caused the vessel to nearly sink on two occasions in the four weeks prior to April 25 2013, had been remedied before the boat went back to sea [and] the vessel had been properly equipped with a func-

## First fish farm planned for Jura's wild west coast

Plans have been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council to build the first fish farm off the Isle of Jura's wild and uninhabited west coast, writes Sandy Neil.

Kilmelford-based Kames Fish Farming Ltd, in a pre-planning application, is 'screening and scoping opinion' for a 14-pen fin fish farm north of Corpach Bay, 15km south west of the Gulf of Corryvreckan.

Last December Kames withdrew its controversial plan to site the first fish farm in the Sound of Jura, opposed by a 3,000-signature petition, and has been scoping potential sites within reach of its shore bases in Loch Craignish and Loch Melfort, and has now selected 'Jura West'.

Kames' report states: 'To date no clearly alternative location, that is also compatible with technical constraints, has been identified.'

The salmon and sea trout farm would likely consist of two rows of 14, 38m-diameter circular pens, in a 70m-square grid per pen, with a 43.4m-by-15m and 10m-high feed barge, 100-120m off shore.



'The remote and exposed location of the site means that a large feed barge is required for feed storage and for staff accommodation,' the report went on to say.

The feed barge will have a generator, though noise would be 'effectively baffled', and navigational and utility lights for night or winter working.

The report continued: 'The site would be managed from the Argyll mainland with no new shore-based infrastructure. There is no contemporary development on the coast, the land being extensive deer forest. The area is valued for its wildness, remoteness and tranquillity.'

'There is no night time illumination on Jura, the island appearing as a dark mass. There is no habitation on Jura visible from the sea and no

apparent influence of human occupation or infrastructure, creating an impression of remoteness.

'In places the proposed development will be prominent and seen at close proximity', and 'partly visible' 500m south at 'rarely visited' Corpach Bay, 'evidently used by wild campers and for picnics'.

'Those walkers who do come here will be here for the scenic quality, tranquillity, sense of remoteness and wildness, as well as the panoramic views.'

'Despite its perceived remoteness, along the coast there are areas of scattered debris on the strand line and amongst the rocky inlets.'

'Respondents will be relatively few in number, but highly sensitive to the proposed development.'



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# lifejackets be mandatory



**Scott MacAlister drowned when the trawler he was working on sank off Easdale five years ago.**

tioning bilge alarm and bilge pumps, able to draw attention to and expel unwanted water from the vessel'.

Finally, Mr MacAlister's death would have been avoided 'if Mr MacAlister, knowing that these precautions had not been taken, had chosen not to take the boat to sea that day', 'if Mr MacAlister had been

wearing a functioning lifejacket' and 'if the Mayday call had been made earlier'.

Sheriff Hughes continued: 'The vessel's owner and skipper had inadequate regard to the requirements of health and safety. In the four years prior to the accident, no attempts were made to have any of the lifesaving equipment suitably

maintained or serviced in accordance with manufacturers' instructions.

'Nor in that period were any checks carried out to confirm whether any of it was capable of working. No health and safety risk assessments were carried out in that period. By the date of the accident the vessel's flares and smoke signals

had passed their expiry date.

'On the day of the accident, the boat was operated single-crewed when the autopilot was not functioning. This meant that when the boat began taking on water, any effort to manually bale out water from the aft compartment required Mr MacAlister to leave the wheel and go aft. The vessel's lack of steering would then lead it to turn and present its whole length to the waves, exacerbating both the loss of stability and the flooding.'

Sheriff Hughes recommended that the current code of practice 'that all crew working on the open decks of fishing vessels at sea or in categorised waters wear Personal Flotation Devices (ie lifejackets or buoyancy aids)' be replaced with a mandatory requirement to that effect.

He expressed his condolences to the friends and family of Mr MacAlister. He said: 'It was clear from the evidence that Scott MacAlister was well-liked and respected within his community.'

'In managing to bring a sinking vessel, in challenging weather, across the Firth of Lorne from Loch Buie to within mere minutes of safety at Easdale, he showed himself to be a seaman of impressive skill and determination.'

Sheriff Hughes added that even when faced with terrible danger, Mr MacAlister displayed great courage by 'retaining the presence of mind to give clear and informative details to the Coastguard'.

He also recognised the 'impressive display of generosity and community spirit that was shown by so many people, businesses and institutions at that difficult time'.

He gave particular recognition to diver Graeme Bruce who, on four occasions, risked his own life by diving to depths that 'police and even military divers could not reach'.

Sheriff Hughes said: 'He did this to help a grieving family with whom he had had no prior connection. His actions showed altruism in the purest form.'

## Coastguard volunteers walk in Ali's memory

Oban Coastguard volunteers were due to set off on a two-day walk to Skye today, Thursday September 6, in memory of colleague Ali MacNab who died from cancer.

The team will walk from Pulpit Hill to Edinbane on Skye, via Mallaig and Portree.

So far, crowdfunding on justgiving.com/fundraising/iain-mackinnon3 has brought in £870.

A key member of the town's Coastguard Rescue Team, Ali died in January 2016, aged 48.

Ali was brought up in Edinbane but lived and worked in Oban where he attended many incidents at sea. He was well-known for his good humour, strength of character and willingness to help others.

**GET INVOLVED**

email us at editor@obantimes.co.uk

## Time for tea...



Town ambassador Kay McDonald and Hope worker Fiona Ferris hope funds for the centre will pour in from the Lavender Tea on Saturday.

Service with a smile and a hint of lavender is on the menu at a special afternoon tea in Oban this weekend, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Shortbread, lemonade and tea all scented with lavender are just some of the temptations that will be on offer at Hope Kitchen's Lavender Tea event this Saturday from 1pm - builder's tea will also be available.

Town ambassador and tea set collector Kay MacDonald is loaning out some of her best pots and

tea cup services for the day - she has 27 in total.

'Afternoon tea tastes even better when it's served up properly. We're going to have everything from tablecloths to sugar tongs.

'People can expect to be well looked after. It's going to be a real treat,' said Ms MacDonald whose fascination started as a little girl when visiting an aunt who always gave her the same tea cup.

'That's how it all started. I've got about 27 sets now.

It's lovely to use some of them again,' she added. In the past, some of the tea sets have been used to help raise funds for Oban's Toy Cupboard appeal.

Hope worker Fiona Ferris said: 'We're hoping lots of people will turn out to support us and that among them will be some people who haven't been here before. We'd love them to come and meet everyone and find out more about what we do. We do lots more than just soup.'

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## Homeless stalker jailed

A stalker has been jailed for five months because he could not provide a home address.

Sheriff John Herald had deferred sentencing on Vernon Davies, 25, for a psychological report until August 29, when Davies' defence agent Edward Thornton told Oban Sheriff Court: 'Mr Davies is willing to engage with mental health services. However, the brick wall I have run into is I cannot give any address for Mr Davies.'

Sheriff Herald said Mr Thornton would have had 'little difficulty' persuading him a community payback order was appropriate, with conditions Davies underwent mental health treatment and did not approach the victim. But, he added: 'I cannot impose such an order where you are homeless. If anybody needs some form of treatment, it is you.'

'In these circumstances Mr Davies, my hands are tied. You will be sentenced to five months in prison. I do not think this is the appropriate way to deal with you.'

# Oban on track to be first 'health town'

by David McPhee  
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Oban is well on its way to becoming Scotland's first 'health town'.

The journey officially started on Saturday at a health fair in Atlantis Leisure, where people were encouraged to try out a new activity or sport.

Dozens of organisations that help to improve people's health, turned out to offer advice. Attendees were also given the opportunity to take part in taster sessions, such as walking football, CPR training, tennis coaching and Tai Chi, as well as other sports and fitness classes.

Roy Clunie, a volunteer director at Lorn and Oban Healthy Options, said: 'We are launching Oban as Scotland's first healthy living town. Forty per cent of the population is not active enough to stay in good health,



Councillors Jim Lynch, Elaine Robertson and Roddy McCuish at the launch. 17\_T36\_Healthfair02

but today is not about being scared.

'In Oban we have fantastic organisations. What we are doing and what these organisations do is fantastic, but it's still reactive. We want people to stay healthy – that's what healthy Oban is all about.'

'There are 150 different organisations either directly,

or indirectly, improving our health. Not just sports clubs and gyms, but walking and social groups. They all improve our health, reduce isolation and loneliness, and get us active.'

'As a town we have our own sports centre, a cinema, and we are working towards having a community centre

at Rockfield. Today, we are saying to the Oban community, this is us making a commitment and the journey has started – and the journey will never end. This is a long-term project.'

'It's a mindset. We never think, "I am going to brush my teeth today", we just do it. We want the same for exercise – we just go for a walk.'

Discussing the next steps, Roy said: 'We have a group of committed people from voluntary organisations who are all pulling together. We just want to support, encourage and provide opportunities for people. We need to support these organisations.'

Andy Spence, chief executive of BID4Oban, said: 'We have a keen interest in what's happening with Oban as a healthy town. It's essential to the residents and the businesses that we support this and make it a success.'

Councillor for Oban North and Lorn Elaine Robertson said: 'We are so fortunate to have a community that responds to a call such as this one. This includes physical and mental health because unless you have both, your well-being and quality of life are diminished.'

'Unfortunately not everyone enjoys good health, but we can all do something to help ourselves. Exercise does as much for us than anything prescribed. Just get out there and go into the community and you will feel better.'

'One of the great things about being the first is you can't make a mistake as there are no rules. Having fun and enjoying yourself is better than any medicine. Look around and see if there's any activity you might enjoy – such as walking football.'

More photographs at [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

## WHAT'S ON @ CORRAN HALLS



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[www.therockfieldcentre.org.uk](http://www.therockfieldcentre.org.uk)



MON SEPT 17 MARK BEAUMONT:  
AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS  
Doors open 7pm starts 7.30pm  
All tickets £16 + £1 booking fee



THU SEPT 20 LISA MCHUGH  
Doors open 7pm starts 8pm  
All tickets £21  
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Doors open 7pm starts 8pm  
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SAT SEPT 29 STUART MITCHELL: GORDON RAMSAY'S KARMA CAFÉ

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# No opening date in sight for community playpark

by David McPhee  
[dmcphee@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:dmcphee@obantimes.co.uk)



Oban Community Play Park remains closed, despite reassurances that a short-term solution had been found.

The park for five- to 15-year-olds has been closed since March after it failed a safety inspection because sections of flooring had become hazardous.

Work to reopen the area was initially meant to start in the middle of May, and then again in mid-July, with the latest date given for August.

Representatives of Friends of Oban Community Playpark and Atlantis Leisure met with an Argyll and Bute Council officer last week to discuss the big play park.

The Friends posted an update online, which read: 'We are limited in what details we can share, however, Argyll and Bute Council is

preparing a formal statement regarding the big playpark, which they will release in the next week.

'We have another meeting lined up for two to three weeks' time to follow up on progress.'

The statement was due to be released after The Oban Times deadline, however, as soon as it becomes available, it will be published on [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

## TIMELINE of saga

Friends of Oban Community Play Park's timeline of events from August 2015.

### August 2015

Wicksteed on site to mark out drainage lines for Phase 1 of big play park.

### September 2015

The first turf lifted as drainage work starts.

### November 2015

The opening party is hosted by Atlantis Community Leisure (despite phase one of park not being open due to wet and mud).

### February 2016

Phase one of play park for five- to 15-year-olds was opened on February 12.

### March 2016

Swing seat removed from 'old' (under-fives) play park and access gate padlocked.

### May 2016

Council installs two bins and new self-closing gate to allow safe access to green field.

### September 2016

After a health and safety inspection, all play parks closed by council on 28th.

### October 2016

Meeting between Wicksteed, Bounceback and FoOCPP on October 6 regarding big play park flooring but no input from council.

Meeting on October 27 with council, Wicksteed and FoOCPP to agree short- and long-term actions over play park flooring.

Garden upgrade done by Wicksteed, installing a new path and border edging, chainsaw carvings, musical items, mirrors, memorial benches, new fencing and gate.

### November 2016

Temporary fixes done on flooring in big play park by Wicksteed. Council open garden and under-fives playpark on 8th and big play park on 22nd, but leave fence between garden and big play park.

### December 2016

Fence comes down on December 9.

### February 2017

French drain installed on the green field parallel to the metal fence by council.

### April 2017

Council part clear the under-fives play park on 5th and close the play park on 28th.

### June 2017

Under-fives, phase three opening party postponed due to delay in award of tender.

### July 2017

July 12 sees meeting to discuss maintenance, litter and the flooring in the big play

park. Maintenance inspections have not been done regularly enough – zip wire is broken beyond repair.

**July 17:** Wicksteed on site to start phase three build.

### November 2017

November 29: Zip wire fixed by Wicksteed (two-and-a-half months after parts delivered, five months after issue highlighted).

### March 2018

Big play park closed on 16th due to problems with flooring.

### June 2018

Council apologises for issues and explains measures done to alleviate safety concerns prior to closure of park as a precaution. Decision is then taken to use local contractor to carry out remedial work in bid to have park up and running over the summer period.

### July 2018

Independent assessor on site to test big play park flooring.

### August 2018

Rocking seahorse in under-fives area is barriered off.

### Outstanding issue

No signage stating opening hours etc.

## Ladies rise to boot camp challenge

Oban Ladies Squash Club dared to be different at the weekend.

Over two days of mud, sweat and tears, the courageous squad of 14 women completed an assault course of log carrying, Ganavan beach sand crawling and various other tortuous activities.

The brainchild of Colin MacNiven and Jackie Kersley, who look after the ladies' squash training team, they decided to push the team to new levels of fitness and personal achievement.

The two-day course was a huge success and very entertaining for the tourists who looked on with total bemusement.

The event was only made possible by sponsors Neil McGougan Builders, Puffin Dive Centre and Oban Filling Station.



## Tiree runners get ready, set, go!

Tiree ultramarathon is back this weekend.

The 35-mile run sets off at 8am on Sunday September 9, at Sorobaigh Beach, with 250 runners taking part.

Last year's winner Crawford Whyte completed the course in four hours and 38 minutes.

Organiser Will Wright

from Tiree Fitness said: 'Last minute advice for people taking part is get ready for your best run ever – it's 35 miles of island paradise. Conditions on the day could be blazing sunshine or raging gale, so hope for the best but plan for the worst. Either way, there will be a medal at the finish.'

line for everyone and we've got the Corraig Ceilidh Band playing the evening dance to finish off the day.

'Training time is over, it's now a case of bringing your best game plan to the day and having the physical and mental toughness to see it through. Good luck.'

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Tills are swamped on the first morning of trading.

16\_T36\_M&S05

# Hundreds queue up



Shoppers were greeted in-store by shinty legends from the last cup winning team of 1996. 16\_T36\_M&S11



Customer assistant Christopher Knowles cuts the ribbon to applause. 16\_T36\_M&S03



Ladies in waiting were Catherine Bratton, Julie McColl, Catherine Hill and Allyson Lawson. 16\_T36\_M&S13

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk

she was going to spend her prize-winnings on treats.

Tiny tot Oliver Craine, just 11 weeks old, was the youngest in the queue with his mum Caledagh Craine from Oban but slept through all the excitement. 'He's completely unaware of the whole thing,' said Caledagh.

More than 350 people queued outside before the ribbon was cut and the store opened for business today creating 48 jobs.

Waiter Ruairidh Shores from Oban won the top prize of £200 and Margaret Young from Lochgilphead opened up her golden ticket to find a voucher for £100 inside. Others won money off vouchers and cash to spend which soon saw baskets brimming and tills swamped.

Smiling Ruairidh said: 'I had a feeling I was going to win and I did. I've got no idea what I'm going to spend it on though but I think my friends will help me.'

Mrs Young, who made the journey to Oban with her daughter Yvonne, to be in with a winning chance, said

Tiny tot Oliver Craine, just 11 weeks old, was the youngest in the queue with his mum Caledagh Craine from Oban but slept through all the excitement. 'He's completely unaware of the whole thing,' said Caledagh.

First in the queue arriving one hour before the doors opened was Yasmin Murray. Her early start only won her £5 off a £25 spend but she was not too downhearted. 'I don't mind. I didn't expect to be first in the queue anyway. I really thought lots of people would have got here before me. I'm happy with the bunch of flowers I got from the store manager – that was a lovely gesture.'

Ann Lamont from Dunbeg said: 'At long last, it's open. The carrot had been dangled in front of Oban for long enough.'

One woman had travelled especially from Lochawe and said: 'Before this, the nearest M&S was Fort William and

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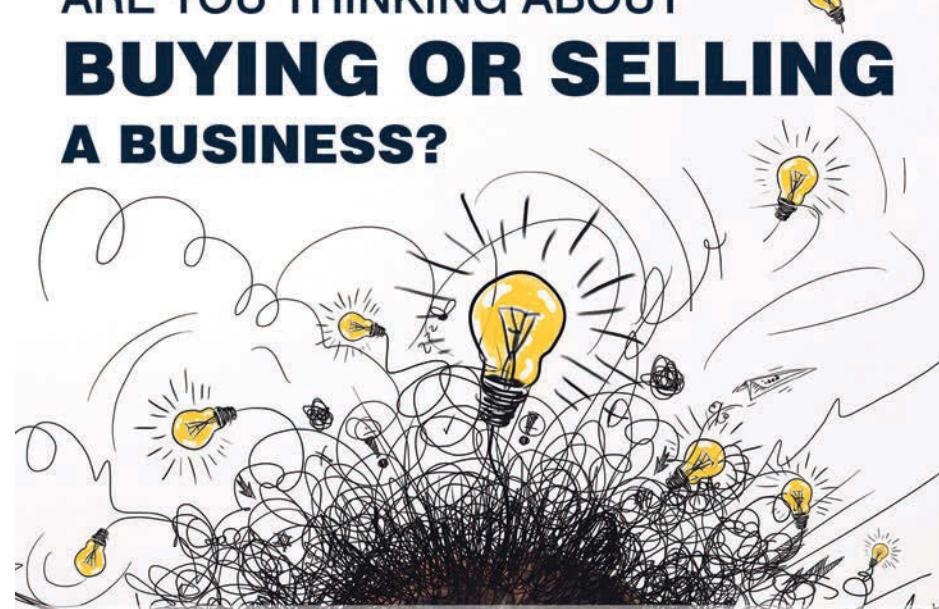
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# p for M&S opening



Store manager Stuart Mackinnon with colleague Christopher Knowles, who cut the ribbon. 16\_T36\_M&S12

before that one opened it was Stirling or Dumbarton.'

Staff had come out offering round Scottish shortbread to pass waiting time and Oban High School Band was on hand to entertain the crowd, and M&S bright pink mascot Percy Pig also put in a larger-than life experience in a specially-made kilt.

Store manager Stuart MacKinnon cut the ribbon alongside his colleague Christopher Knowles, while shiny legends from the town's clubs had the honour

of handing out the golden tickets.

Mr MacKinnon said: 'What a wonderful start. We estimate about 350 people were waiting for us to open. We had the first 200 people in the store within minutes.'

Andrew Spence, BID4Oban's chief executive, said it was fantastic to see M&S open. 'Seeing customers coming from as far as Lochawe and Lochgilphead is a clear indication that M&S will be a draw to the town which will be a benefit to all businesses.'



Around 350 people queued outside waiting for the doors to open. 16\_T36\_M&S06



Oban High School Pipe Band kept the queue entertained. 16\_T36\_M&S07



Percy the Pig with Oban High School pipers.

16\_T36\_M&S10



Jessie Stott, Catriona Petit and Ann Forbes of New Hope/Hope Kitchen, M&S's charity for the year. 16\_T36\_M&S09

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- Mr and Mrs Spence, Balblair



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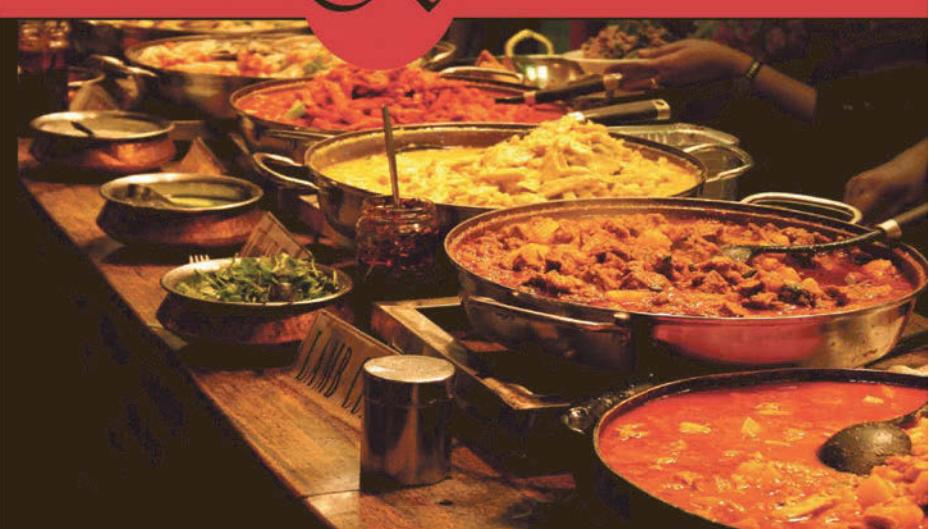
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OT

# Dalmally Show receives the ladies' full approval

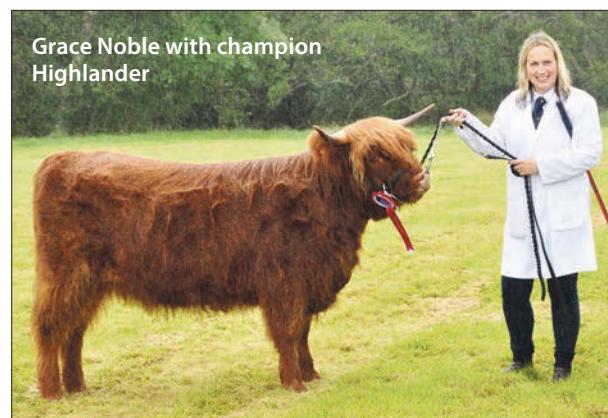
Women had the final say at this year's Dalmally Agricultural Show with an all-female line-up of judges.

The move, which included inviting a Highland Cattle judge from Finland, was in celebration of the 100th anniversary of women getting the right to vote.

Marjorie Walker of Carloonan Farm, Inveraray, was 2018 show president taking the reins of what is the last of Argyll's agricultural shows of the calendar year.

Despite torrential downpours earlier in the day, hardy competitors and visitors turned out on Saturday to show their support and were eventually rewarded when the sun came out.

A ewe reared by Sandy and Tommy Patterson of Auchloy near Crieff kept her title of Blackface champion after winning for three years' running as a gimmer last year and as a lamb the year before that. Meanwhile, in the equally hotly contested



cattle ring, the Duchess of Grace, a yearling homebred by Grace Noble of Bancory, was crowned the champion Highlander.

The Duchess then vied against The Captain, the champion commercial breed, for the overall cattle champion.

In the end the judges agreed the Captain, a Limousin cross calf bred by father and son Ewen and Ewen MacGillivray of Home Farm, Barcaldine, deserved the sash. The five-

month-old animal, by Lodge Hamlet out of a homebred Belgian Blue cross cow, won the supreme title at the Mid Argyll Show and then the Appin Show.

A 'delighted' Ewen senior told The Oban Times: 'You never know if you are going to win. He is a decent calf. He has been something special since the day he was born.'

Compere Angus Mackay said, despite the cattle numbers being down this year, the high standard was maintained. One of the most popular contests, the dog show, was won by one of the smallest entries – a black terrier called Cilla, owned by Iain McKay of Appin.

It was also a good day for smiley seven-year-old Laura Sharp from Dalmally who impressed judges with her cardboard creation of a traditional castle which won her the children's section shield.

Organisers of the show said: 'Thank you to everyone who came to Dalmally Show today, and to our lovely judges, competitors and stall-holders. See you next year.'

The huge field was packed with plenty to see and do

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The Taynuilt winners of the children's shinty sixes at Dalmally Show. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn



Rosette glory in the sheep pen at Dalmally Show.



Dalmally Show's first woman president Marjorie Walker welcomes the Galcantry Clydesdales. Photograph: Kevin McGlynn.



This Bentley is as grey as the sky...



Tommy and Sandy Petterson with the Blackface champion.

from animals being judged to cheering on terrier races, watching shinty games, listening to bagpipes, marvelling at handicrafts and home-made cakes in the home industries tent. Birds of prey, vintage cars from Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club and a pair of Clydesdale horses attracted lots of admirers. Sand art, fabulous facepainting and a toddlers' play space were just as popular.

It was the last gig of the summer for Helensburgh Clan Colquhoun Pipe Band, which posted on Facebook, 'A great day out and a nice crowd' and Galcantry Clydesdales,

which brought along horses Storm and Lightening, posted, 'Storm and Lightening pleased the crowds as always. Was lovely to meet so many people and to see the smiles on everyone's faces when they got to get up close to our gorgeous boys.'

And when it came to shinty, Glenorchy picked up some silverware in the Jakey Matheson trophy against Taynuilt.

It was a hard fought game which finished 0-0. Glenorchy won 2-1 on penalties with the heroes being Andrew Smith with four saves and Scott MacIntyre, who scored the winning penalty.



Overall sheep cross sheep champion from Elliot Bowman.



Over-all cattle champion The Captain.



Heather and Grace MacDougal had their faces painted.



Laura Sharp, 7, from Dalmally wins the children's shield.

A photograph of a meal on a plate. It includes a medium-rare steak, green asparagus, and some chips. In the background, there is a glass of beer and a bottle of beer. The word 'co op' is overlaid in large white letters across the middle of the image.

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OT

# North Connel and District Horticultural Show winners

Championship Cup for most points classes 1-52 (flowers and vegetables): Fiona Shaw

McLeod Shield for runner-up champion classes 1-52: Hugh MacLeod

Lees Milne Cup for best exhibit classes 1-52 (flowers and vegetables): Hugh MacLeod

Oban Times Cup for most points classes 1-19 (flowers): Heather MacPherson

Campbell Godley Quaich for most points classes 20-25 (pot plants): Hugh MacLeod

Dundonald Vase for winner class: Marian Steeman

Agnes MacKay Quaich for winner class 17 or 18 or (violets or pansies): Jim MacKie

Tensfeldt Cup for most points classes 26-52 (vegetables): Fiona Shaw

Silver Baking Cup for most points classes 53-56 (children's baking sevens and under): Euan Campbell

Silver Rose Bowl for most points classes 57-60 (children's baking 8-14 years): Sophie Stewart

An Claddich Quaich for most points classes 61-73



Judges had a hard task at North Connel District Horticultural Show.

(baking): Suzanne Hill

Best Eggs Trophy for winner class 74: Laurie Shaw

Achnacreebeag Cup for most points classes 75-80 (floral art): Morag Allward

Graham Stooke

Photography Cup for most points classes 81-85 (adult's photography): Amber Richards

Silver Photography Shield for most points classes 86-90 (under 15s photography): Rachael Steward

Silver Vase for most points classes 91-96 (children's nines and under): Finlay Wilson

Donald Morrison Cup for most points classes 97-102 (children's 10-14 years): Rachel Carré

Jean Campbell Cup for best exhibit classes 91-102 (children's section): Ruby Heritage-Crabb

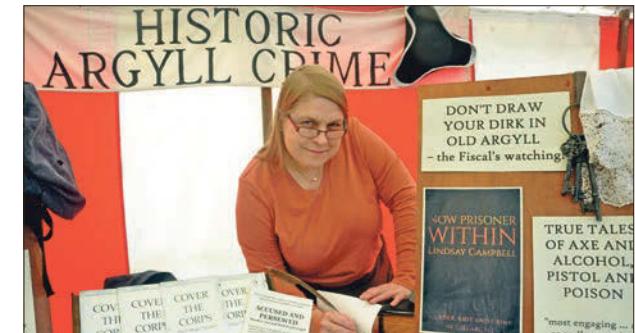
Schools' Challenge Cup: Barcaldine School

Best Wonky Vegetable: Gemma Bruce

## Dalmally Show in focus...



Iain McKay with Cilla.



Author Lindsay Campbell signs copies of her book.



Tilly Cunningham with the award-winning Casper.



Archie and Annie Galbraith from Lochgilphead take shelter under their brollies.



Prize-winning onions.

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# Minister visits Stramash nursery

Outdoor play was the hot topic of the children's minister's visit to Oban's Stramash nursery.

Marie Todd MSP, the children and young people minister, met parents and guardians to discuss ways to get toddlers outdoors more, as part of a Scottish Government drive.

Ms Todd said it was 'an absolute pleasure' to visit the nursery. 'We know playing and learning out-

doors improves mental wellbeing, health and fitness, confidence levels and resilience and we saw lots of that in action here,' she added.

Stramash board chair Robbie Drummond said: 'We believe that an early years' experience in Scotland's wild spaces can support healthy child development and contribute to closing the attainment gap.'



Maree Todd with the children and helpers at Stramash, and receiving a high-five from youngsters.

## It's been a wonderful year for cruise ships

### Around Oban

KAY MCDONALD

editor@obantimes.co.uk

It's taken a while but I've finally got to grips with the fact that autumn is here and I'm happy about it.

This is my favourite season, beautiful colours, reasonable weather (usually) and it's a bit quieter but not too quiet. The only downside is that it's almost the end of the cruise ship season.

For the rest of the month it will be the smaller ships such as the Majestic Line and Hebridean Princess, unless we have an unexpected arrival. It's sometimes easier and more relaxed with the smaller ships as it means you have more time to chat and get to know people – with the bigger ships the volume of passengers makes it much more hectic.

We've been lucky this year to have a few extra ships call in as bad weather altered their destinations and we've made the most of it, providing ambassadors and pipers to greet them and organising walking tours and entertainment where possible. It's worked out really well for us, with the cruise companies already planning to include Oban on their list of future calls.

I'm aware that some people still think that all the passengers are bussed away from Oban but that couldn't be further from the truth. Only a small percentage of the passengers choose to go on the trips which are usually for the morning and allow the passengers the afternoon to explore the town. Once the buses have departed Joe and I spend the rest of the morning welcoming the rest of the passengers who have the full day in the town; eating here, visiting the castle, distillery and museum and wandering around the shops and cafes. They are all delighted that Oban is one of the few places where they arrive in the middle of the town and everything is so conveniently situated.

Many of the cruise passengers also use their cruise to identify places that they would like to return to for a longer visit, and from the reactions I've witnessed I would say that Oban will be one of the places many of them come back to.

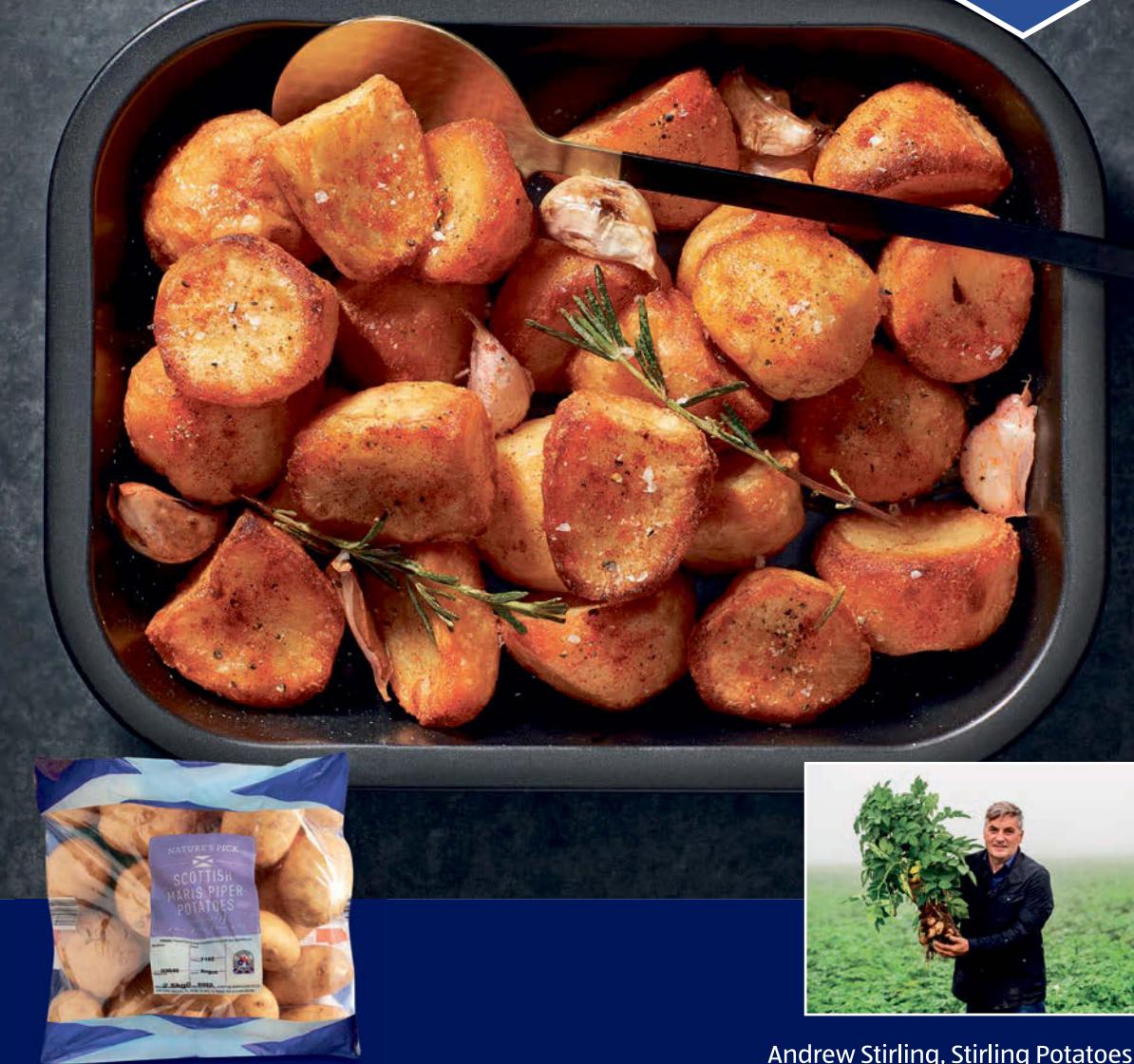
It still gives me a wee warm glow to hear all the compliments. I recently travelled back from the cruise ship Star Breeze on one of the tenders with the passengers and they could not have been more delighted with the weather, how beautiful everything was, and the fact that they stepped into the heart of the town and everything was laid out before them. I think that when they go home and tell people about their holiday Oban will definitely feature as a highlight.

The photograph last week was of the front door of the Cellar Bar at the Regent Hotel – it caught my eye as I was passing one day. This week's is quite new but very attractive.

### WHERE IS THIS?



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OT

**BEHIND THE SCENES** at Atlantis**Gym Transformation**

This month the gym has undergone a complete makeover with reconditioned flooring, lighting improvements and a paint refresh. The air conditioning system has also had a full health check and is now blasting out fresh cold air to keep you cool during your workout.

**Social Enterprise Academy**

Atlantis was one of many local social enterprises that were picked to be included in a two-week field visit for a group of Oban High School pupils. The 15 pupils have been learning all about social enterprise on a special programme organised by the Social Enterprise Academy. It was a brilliant opportunity to welcome them into the centre, share how Atlantis operates and explain how we interact with and support our local community.

**Staff Development**

All of our duty management team will be undergoing pool plant refresher training this month. This regular training ensures everyone has the appropriate knowledge and skills to make sure the pool is sparklingly clean and safe.

**Oban Swim School**

This month, 16 of our Oban Swim School Level 2

Instructors spent a day with a Scottish Swimming Tutor. In particular, the group came away with new tips and tricks for teaching front crawl, breaststroke and butterfly. Rebecca Mackinnon, our Swimming Development Officer, will be running a Level 1 swimming course this month ensuring we have teachers for the future.

**Summer Swimming Lessons**  
For the first time, swimming lessons were provided over the summer holidays, in response to customer feedback. We were delighted to have 135 junior swimmers join us during the holiday period. We're looking forward to more of the same for future holidays.

**Ben Moves On**

Ben Pollock, perhaps known better by all the children simply as 'Ben from Atlantis' is leaving the business this month after 13 years at Atlantis. Ben has been accepted into the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to train to become a firefighter. This is a long-held ambition of Ben's and we're delighted to see him achieve his goal. Kevin Keen was appointed as a sports coordinator to make sure everything keeps running smoothly.

by David McPhee  
[dmcphée@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:dmcphée@obantimes.co.uk)

Oban Station Square was packed on Saturday with more than 100 people cheering on Willie Neilson.

The 29-year-old wheeled into Oban after having completed a 737-mile cycle, in which he raised more than £12,000 – and counting – for three charities close to his heart.

Willie, who cycled from Land's End to Oban, will split the money between Alzheimer's Scotland, the Craighalbert Centre, and the Beatson Cancer Charity.

Each of the charities has a special connection to the building contractor. Willie's gran passed away after suffering from Alzheimer's disease, and his other granny was diagnosed with cancer. However, she was given the all clear after being admitted to the Beatson Centre in Glasgow.

His sister-in-law, Laura, who cycled the last part of the



Willie was joined by his sister-in-law Laura as he rode into Oban.  
17\_t36Charitycycle01

journey with Willie, has cerebral palsy and attended the Craighalbert Centre.

Speaking about his journey, Willie said: 'It was good watching the target going up all week. When we started the cycle we were sitting at around £5,000 and by the time I got back it was around £11,500. It definitely spurred me on.'

'There were loads of challenges on the way with punctures, worrying about the campervan, the routes were a bit of an issue at times, and it's typical, as we landed in Scotland it started raining again.'

At one point on the cycle, the campervan broke down and the spokes on Willie's bike gave way, meaning he had to cycle 100 miles on his back-up bike with no support team.

When he arrived in Glasgow his former Taynuilt Shinty Club team mate Billy Irving greeted Willie by piping him into the Campanile Hotel.

Speaking about arriving back in Oban, Willie said: 'When I came down into the main street, a fire engine was blocking my view of all the

people, so I couldn't see everyone. When my sister-in-law Laura started cycling with me, I could see everyone. I didn't expect as many as that. It was emotional.'

On the last leg of the journey, Willie was joined by friends and family, and when he arrived in Oban he was greeted by 100 people cheering, as well as a bottle of Champagne.

'It didn't really sink in until the next day,' he added. 'When I woke up and opened Facebook and I saw all the well wishes. I was crying in bed looking at it.'

Willie thanked his team: 'I don't think it would have been possible without them.'

There is still time to win the bicycle that Willie cycled from Land's End to Oban, as it will be raffled off this Saturday.

To buy a ticket, visit Big Bill's Big Cycle Land's End to Oban 737 miles in seven days on social media or to donate, visit [www.gofundme.com/bigbillsbigcycle](http://www.gofundme.com/bigbillsbigcycle)

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Calum with friends and supporters at Ben Nevis.

## Calum's prayer chain conquers Ben Nevis

Even weather pundits forecasting 50 mph gusts up Ben Nevis failed to put kilted octogenarian Calum MacFarlane-Barrow off his stride, writes Kathie Griffiths.

The 85-year-old founder of Dalmally's Craig Lodge house of prayer led a team of 14 friends and supporters from the base to the summit of Britain's highest peak and back on Sunday, saying a rosary prayer relay all the way.

'It was hard going at times but we were spurred on by our young piper Patrick Connor – and the prayers, of course,' said Mr MacFarlane-Barrow.

A Justgiving page set up for

the sponsored climb to help with the charity's work raised more than £8,000.

Mr MacFarlane-Barrow, a former shepherd and stalker, and life-long hill climbing enthusiast, turned the guest-house he ran with wife Mary Anne into a prayer house after going on pilgrimage to the shrine of Medjugorje in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The prayer house offers spiritual retreats to people of all ages. The international school feeding charity Mary's Meals also grew out of Craig Lodge and its famous shed headquarters are still located in the grounds.

# People urged to attend Oban Bay meeting

by Sandy Neil  
[sneil@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:sneil@obantimes.co.uk)



CMAL plans to 'bulldozer' through its bid to control all of Oban Bay, despite an 'overwhelming' majority vote for a trust port, the town's business and tourism chiefs claim.

Now BID4Oban's chief executive Andrew Spence has urged the public to attend tonight's public meeting in Oban's Corran Halls at 7.30pm (Thursday September 6) to 'make OBMG listen and react with meaningful and constructive dialogue rather than attempt to bulldozer through its plans regardless'.

The row erupted after CalMac's ferry- and port-owning sister company, Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL), sought to unite its and Argyll and Bute Council's harbour authorities into one to 'mitigate safety risks' as marine traffic increases.

But in an online consultation, run by the CMAL-chaired Oban Bay Management Group (OBMG) which supported the bid, only seven per cent of 550 voters agreed, while 63 per cent opposed a single user managing the bay in favour of an independent trust.

The OBMG said it would now 'explore this option while continuing to progress the early work necessary either for a trust port or extension of an existing harbour area', to be discussed at tonight's meeting.

Linda Battison, director of Oban and Lorn Tourism Alliance (OLTA), said: 'It appears OBMG is not listening as it has so far failed to ditch its proposal despite public opposition and the overwhelmingly negative response to its plan for CMAL to control Oban Bay.'

The leaders of OLTA, BID4Oban and the Port of Oban Cruise Group added in a joint statement: '[We] are astounded the OBMG continues

to champion this option while publicly declaring support for the establishment of a trust port.'

They urged people 'to once again make their feelings known' at tonight's meeting, which Ms Battison feared would merely 'reaffirm CMAL's existing plans'.

She said the public would expect OBMG to 'acknowledge the overwhelming opposition to this proposal and their acceptance that other options exist and will be explored with the stakeholder group'.

The statement said mariners on the Oban Bay Stakeholder Group, which met on August 29, 'were clearly disappointed the plans had not been paused to allow the group time to do as requested by OBMG and "put up or shut up".' It said 'the company response is merely to delay the timetable for submitting a Harbour Revision Order by a month or so'.

Lorna Spencer, CMAL's di-

rector of harbours and current chair of the OBMG, said: 'We have stated our support for a trust port. We will provide assistance to a viable stakeholder group and sufficient time will be given for the necessary research and preparation.'

'At the same time, we must progress the work required for an alternative option. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) expressed the need for timely action.'

'There is a formal legal process for all Harbour Revision Orders, which requires final approval of Scottish ministers.'

'The current programme provides for the formal process to commence in February 2019.'

'The OBMG will review that date and adjust as necessary following work on the viability of a trust port.'

Today Argyll and Bute Council's Harbour Board will decide if it will continue to support CMAL's expansion plans.

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OT

## Liam gets on his bike for Kilbride fundraiser

A 71-year-old retired seaman from Lerags Glen will cycle 50 miles from Glasgow to Edinburgh this weekend, to raise funds for a charity preserving its historic Kilbride Kirk.

Friend of Kilbride Liam Griffin is cycling in a 100-mile sportive ride, called The Big Belter, as part of the Pedal For Scotland event on Sunday, September 9.

Kilbride, three miles south of Oban, has been a religious site since at least the 13th century and is the burial place of the MacDougall clan chiefs, but it became ruined and overgrown.

Friends of Kilbride has spent several years rescu-



**Liam Griffin.**

ing it from oblivion and is fundraising to enact a preservation plan and carry out year-round maintenance for the car park and grass cutting.

To sponsor Liam, [www.friendsofkilbride.scot](http://www.friendsofkilbride.scot)

## Die cast model show lifts off for air ambulance charity

Scotland's charity air ambulance will benefit from funds raised at a die cast model show at Benderloch's Victory Hall this weekend.

Opening hours are 10am to 5pm on Saturday, September 8, and from 10am to 4pm

on Sunday September 9. Admission is £2 for adults and £1 for children. There will also be an arts and crafts sale.

To find out more about the work of the air ambulance go to [scaa.org.uk](http://scaa.org.uk)

# Ganavan 'sold' is untrue

by Kathie Griffiths  
[kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk)

A councillor has rubbed rumours that Ganavan has been sold.

A Facebook thread suggested the popular beach spot had been sold and was being kept hushed up by Argyll and Bute Council.

One post on Information Oban reported information had come from 'a reliable source' but said no one knew who the supposed buyer is.

Oban councillor Roddy McCuish says there is a narrow strip of council-owned land close to an old wooden bridge that has been marked out by yellow paint for sale or lease but no deal has been done.

'Suggestions that we have sold Ganavan are just rumours. Why would we sell Ganavan when we only just spent thousands of pounds resurfacing it last year? I would have known if any land we own there had been sold or leased - it has to come

to the council area committee first for ratification.'

However, Mr McCuish did say the land marked out by paint would be big enough 'to get something on it,' possibly a small business.

He added: 'Our estates department has been tasked to get as much revenue as possible. Personally, I would rather see it leased than sold but neither has happened.'

'We've had public meetings about Ganavan being sold in the past. It's a story that keeps

getting recycled but there's nothing in it.'

Oban councillor Elaine Robertson also said nothing had come to her attention but she would be asking council officers for more information.

'I will be asking officers if they can give us some sort of briefing. Nothing has come to the area committee as far as I'm aware. The land was up for sale some time ago but then it was taken off again. I think people had shown interest at the time.'

## Oban firefighters do their bit for charity with car wash



Oban firefighters put their equipment to good use on Saturday by raising money for charity by washing cars.

A 'steady flow' of vehicles pulled into Oban Community Fire Station to support the Firefighters Charity, which rehabilitates those suffering from either a physical or mental condition.

Firefighter David MacInnes, who organised the event, said: 'There are guys in this station who have been there with different issues with their legs or whatever, so it's quite an important charity to us, as we have had to use it personally. The weather has not been great, but it's not deterred most folk. It's good to see the community coming out and supporting the local firefighters.'

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## Radio 2 hears why Mull is magic

Mull Magic's Ruth Fleming has declared her love for the island to nine million listeners tuned in to Radio 2's Chris Evans Breakfast Show, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Ms Fleming, who runs her Mull Magic wildlife tour business in Tobermory, was chatting on the airwaves on Tuesday as part of the show's 'living the dream' feature.

The mum-of-one told the popular presenter she had been living on Mull for 14 years and 'loved it' after deciding to move from the Lake District.

Ms Fleming takes walkers on successful tours along the coastline seeking out wildlife, including the elusive Eurasian otters – so elusive because they spend 70 per cent of their time sleeping and are the same colour as seaweed so difficult to spot if curled up snoozing.

She also praised Tobermory High School as being one of the best schools in Scotland and as good as getting a private education for her son.

Ms Fleming said she had spent six or eight weeks of the



Ruth Fleming.

year on Mull before moving full-time and described how hearing the rumble as she drove up the ferry ramp every time she left the island was heart-breaking.

Chris Evans told her she had made about 90 per cent of people listening in to their conversation 'insanely jealous'.

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## Oban scouts reopen doors

Oban's Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts met this week for the first time in months after the group had to stop due to a shortage of leaders, writes David McPhee.

The organisation, which caters to both boys and girls, struggled for almost a year to recruit new leaders and it was feared that the Scout Hall would have to be sold.

However, after finding new volunteers, the club was able to open the doors to youngsters in Oban once again.

Leader Jeff Anderson said: 'I came back out of retirement. I was a scout leader, but I gave it up six years ago. I started as a cub in 1957, so I have a few years behind me.'

'We managed to get six or seven volunteers, some with experience and some new starts. We decided to kick it off this week with taster sessions.'

Jeff's son Jack put out a plea last September asking for people to get involved.

Jack explained that children who don't go to football or other sports tend to come to the Scouts, before saying: 'You are getting to do all these amazing things that you wouldn't do in normal life.'

Jeff added: 'If Scouts were to close, it would be a hole in the community. My reason for continuing is because I learned so much as a young

person about getting on with my life, self reliance, skills, love of the outdoors, and team work.'

Cubs (eight to 10.5 years old) was the first of the groups to get started, hosting a taster session on Monday September 3 in the Scout Hall.

Scouts (10.5 to 14-year-olds) held a meeting on Wednesday, and Beavers, which caters to six to eight-year-olds, will meet on Tuesday September 11 from 6-7pm in the Scout Hall.

To find out more or to get involved, contact Jeff Anderson on 07751 566143. Everyone is welcome, including any adult volunteers.

## Motorfest parking up in Station Square

Classic vehicles and a cycle stunt team will roll into Oban for a motoring extravaganza.

Motorfest will take place in Station Square, from 11am-

4pm on Sunday September 16.

Andrew Spence of BID4Oban said: 'If the event is as popular as it was last year we are in for a cracking

day. This year we have more entrants, more displays and Clan Stunt Team will have various giveaways throughout the day.'

## Come and strum

Have you got a ukulele gathering dust, desperate to be played?

Sue Pagan is helping to set up a new ukulele group at Oban's Dementia Resource Centre and is looking for donations. Lidl is due to hand over a number of the string instruments to the centre in High Street but more are still welcome, said dementia adviser Sue.

Oban busker Aidan MacLeod has offered to help teach the sessions and memory group users Irene Hannah and Betty Cookson are among the first to get into the swing and sign up.

If you can help, contact 01631 570614.

## Sanitary products

Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell has welcomed the news that free sanitary products will be available to pupils, students and learners at schools, colleges and universities across Scotland.

Mr Russell said: 'The SNP government's £5.2 million investment in free sanitary products will allow students in Argyll and Bute to remain focused on what matters – their studies.'

  
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**Saturday 8 September | Disathairne 8 Sultain**  
An Gearasdan - Caol Community Centre - Fort William @ 8pm

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**Tuesday 11 September | Dimàirt 11 Sultain**  
Glengarry Community Hall - Invergarry @ 7.30pm  
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in concert  
Rachel Walker, James Graham  
Brian Ó hEadhra & Fiona Mackenzie  
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**Friday 14 September | Dihaoine 14 Sultain**  
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OT

## Four major cruise ships visit Oban

Oban was visited by no fewer than four cruise ships over the past two weeks.

First to call at the town was the Azamara Pursuit with more than 750 passengers on board along with 380 crew.

Its captain, Carl Smith, was presented with an engraved quaich by the Port of Oban Cruise Group. Oban's deputy harbourmaster, Rick Dobson, was presented with a commemorative plaque which will be displayed in the new harbour building on North Pier. One of Oban's new walking tour guides, Nan McLachlan, also visited the ship handing out maps and information to the cruise passengers.

Last week saw the Astor, Hebridean Sky and Star Breeze all arrive on Wednesday.



Captain Carl Smith and Rick Dobson.



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# Barra visit renews pressure on RBS

by Martin Laing  
[mlaing@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mlaing@obantimes.co.uk)



New pressure has been put on RBS to halt the proposed closure of its branch on Barra.

The pressure came last week when the UK economic secretary to HM Treasury visited the island at the invitation of Western Isles MP Angus Brendan MacNeil.

Following the visit by John Glen MP, Mr MacNeil said: 'I was very glad that John Glen took the time to come and visit the Hebrides in his role as economic secretary to the Treasury, particularly in regard to the Royal Bank of Scotland branch in Castlebay.'

'Mr Glen will have left with a very strong impression that the case to keep the RBS branch in Castlebay open is overwhelming. It was pointed out to Mr Glen that it would be faster for people to reach branches in Glasgow than



Left to right are Angus MacNeil MP, John Glen MP, economic secretary to the Treasury, and Castlebay postmaster Chris Dillerstone.

it would be to reach other branches in the islands, given the length of time ferries take versus the length of time an aircraft can take.'

'Mr Glen heard from a

variety of local businesses, visited Castlebay post office and spoke to postmaster Chris Dillerstone, who pointed out the various difficulties post offices would have in

trying to slot into the crucial role the RBS branch currently has in the economic life of the island.

'Mr Glen will also have left with the clear impression that whatever savings one hand of the RBS is doing, the other hand of the RBS must be losing.'

'Over and above all this, he heard disappointment from the community about the customer service from the RBS, given the amount of business the community both on the island and from people who have moved off the island must be giving to RBS over the decades.'

'Finally, I would like to thank Mr Glen for coming. His visit was appreciated, he showed his interest and he was genuine in his concern and questioning for what is going on in Castlebay and, for that, we are of course thankful.'

## Council blasted over island errors

Isle of Bute councillor Jim Findlay has voiced concern following the publication of Argyll and Bute Council's agenda for a recent Argyll Islands Strategic Group meeting.

A document titled Our Island Waste describes Argyll and Bute's 'most populous islands' as Mull and Islay, each of which has a population of approximately 3,000, whereas the Isle of Bute has a population of 6,400.

Councillor Findlay said: 'This is disappointing and leaves many locals wondering if Bute really matters to this council. Unfortunately, this is not the first time this sort of mistake has been made. At a recent public consultation the council held on the island, a title slide suggested the location was the "Isle of Rothesay".

'This is simply not good enough. The council needs to give Bute the respect it is due.'

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# BUSINESS NEWS

## Oban firm wins multiple honours

Oban creative firm Freytag Anderson has brought in a record-breaking haul of six accolades at this year's Scottish Design Awards.

Winners in the Corporate Identity, Craft and Packaging categories, the branding specialists were also commended for website design, appointed the Chairman's Award for two separate projects, and crowned Design Agency of the Year.

Creative director Greig Anderson acknowledged the studio's business model as the source of its success. He said: 'With a small core of specialists, we can get to know our clients and understand their design challenges. Then we build the right team for the job.'

Daniel added: 'We've deliberately stayed small. Small means responsive. We hand-pick our photographers, illustrators, writers, film-makers and developers based on their expertise and the requirements of the job.'



Partners and creative directors Daniel Freytag, left, and Greig Anderson with project director Sophie Brown.

## Digital workshops for Highlands and Islands

Entrepreneurs across the Highlands and Islands are being given the opportunity to learn how to create the most effective digital strategy for their business from a leading expert in this field.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has launched a range of digital strategy workshops as part of its Entrepreneurial Academy.

The Delivering a Digital Strategy workshops, which are free to attend, kick off in Thurso on September 26 and include workshops in Benbecula, Fort William and Oban.

At the workshops, business leaders will be guided through digital channels and shown the best techniques and tactics to achieve their goals, from securing more sales to increasing brand awareness and improving customer support.

Delivered by Gary Ennis, of award-winning digital training consultancy NSDesign, the workshops will explain how the modern customer researches and purchases, how Google works and why businesses may not be getting the results they want. Attendees will also be given an overview of social media platforms and which ones they should prioritise, as well as ideas for great content.

Gary said: 'The digital landscape changes daily, and if you're not aware of how to be found, how to stand out and how to be trusted, then you face an uphill struggle as consumers turn to these channels to find you ... or not, as the case may be.'

'At the workshops, we'll look at digital strategies, review the websites of attendees, looking at whether they're optimised for mobile and



Gary Ennis will deliver the workshops.

'The digital landscape changes daily, and if you're not aware of how to be found, how to stand out and how to be trusted, then you face an uphill struggle as consumers turn to these channels to find you.'

reviewing search engine optimisation (SEO), review social media platforms, including paid for advertising, and, new for this year, we'll be giving advice around cyber security.

'We've designed the workshops to be fun and engaging; we'll be working together and using live demos and YouTube videos to facilitate discussion.'

'We'll not only be giving an overview of best practice use of digital platforms but will be looking at the strategy behind their usage. Attendees will go away with the knowledge of how to monitor and evaluate their efforts and an action plan for their business.'

Louise MacDonald, senior entrepreneurship manager at HIE, said: 'With so many digital channels available to businesses, it can often be difficult to identify the best ones for your target market or to create campaigns that successfully engage your audience.'

'That's why we're delighted to have Gary share his knowledge. If you are unsure how to make digital work harder for you, then I would encourage you to attend.'

The workshops are available to entrepreneurs or senior staff of companies or social enterprises with growth potential or the ambition to scale.

The digital strategy workshops are part of a suite of free workshops organised by HIE. The first Delivering a Digital Strategy workshop takes place at Caithness Horizons in Thurso on September 26. Full details of all Entrepreneurial Academy workshops and links to sign up can be found at: [www.hie.co.uk/entrepreneurship](http://www.hie.co.uk/entrepreneurship)

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## Boost for Argyll and Bute's Rural Growth Deal

The case for Argyll and Bute's Rural Growth Deal has once again been made in the latest 'very positive' discussions with the UK Government.

Argyll and Bute Council leader Aileen Morton met David Mundell, Secretary of State for Scotland, in Lochgilphead on Tuesday August 28.

Mr Mundell had travelled to Argyll and Bute for the latest in the council's series of high-level meetings with both the Scottish and UK governments, making the case for additional investment in the area.

Along with key partners, the council has been working to refine its Rural Growth Deal proposals over the past few months, ahead of a formal pitch to both governments.

Speaking after her meeting with Mr Mundell, Councillor Morton said: 'We're clear that Argyll is the natural choice for a growth deal – it's absolutely full of opportunities for economic success and prosperity.'



Councillor Aileen Morton met David Mundell in Lochgilphead.

'All of this potential can be unleashed through investment in Argyll and Bute's key

strengths like tourism and business innovation, while also overcoming barriers to growth

like housing supply and digital connectivity. I was delighted to welcome Mr Mundell to Argyll and Bute to outline our progress over the past few months, and to let him know that local people overwhelmingly back a deal for their communities.

It was really encouraging to hear that the UK Government is looking forward to receiving our proposals and seeing them go through the process over the coming months.'

Councillor Morton added: 'Our next steps are further meetings with the Scottish Government at both ministerial and MSP level, scheduled to take place in September.'

'It's great to be going into these meetings with significant support from local people as well as the positive feedback we heard today.'

'More and more people are convinced that Argyll is the natural choice for a Rural Growth Deal, and we are determined to make it happen.'

## Restaurant goes on the market

Cafe Fish in Tobermory on Mull has been put up for sale with an asking price of £500,000.

Situated on the upper floor above the CalMac office on the pier, the restaurant occupies the original art deco building with views over the Sound of Mull.

The indoor dining area, which is decorated in a blue and white nautical theme, seats 38 with an additional terrace, which can accommodate a further 50 covers.

The family-run restaurant was first opened in 2006 and is now owned and operated by cousins Jane Gill and Liz McGougan. They said: 'Jane now has a husband and home in Glasgow, and Liz wants to make her home with her partner in the Caribbean. It's ironic because business has never been better.'

Christie & Co is selling the business.

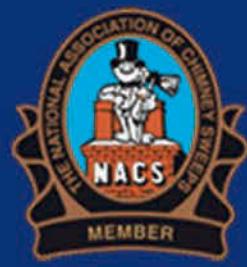


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## Appeal for guides to give Gaelic tours

Gaelic volunteer tour guides are being recruited for newly launched programmes in Argyll and the Isles.

People who either have an interest in or speak the Gaelic language are being invited to give bespoke tours on the historic sites of Dunstaffnage Castle, near Oban, and Arnol Blackhouse on the Isle of Lewis. Such programmes already exist at 29 sites across Scotland.

This project is part of the first five-year Gaelic Language Plan developed by Historic Environment Scotland (HES), aiming 'to acknowledge and promote Gaelic language and culture as an important and valuable part of Scotland's historic environment'.

HES's chief executive Alex Paterson said: 'These new opportunities at Dunstaffnage Castle and Arnol Blackhouse will help us to continue to support volunteers across the country and empower communities and partners to engage with projects that promote the value of Gaelic culture to Scotland's past and present.'

Gaelic is thought to be worth more than £82 million to Scotland's economy, according to Highlands and Islands Enterprise.



John Smith and Nick Green outside Arnol Blackhouse on the Isle of Lewis.

# War has unusual t

## Morvern lines

IAIN THORNBER

iain.thornber@btinternet.com

The First World War, or the Great War, as it became known, started at Mons in Belgium in 1914.

When it ended four years later, it had been one of the bloodiest conflicts in the history of the human race. Ten million military personnel are estimated to have died in the trenches and on the battlefields when the veneer of civilisation collapsed in the quicksand of sucking mud, dysentery and slaughter.

Yet, despite the unspeakable carnage, acts of kindness and decency were shown on both sides. Compassion is a quality that is usually hard to come by in times of war. It is even harder to show it to the enemy. After all, how can you be nice to someone who might actively have tried to kill you?

Of all the experiences shared through the media this year commemorating the 100th anniversary of the ending of the Great War, probably the most well known is the unofficial Christmas truce of 1914 when both sides were able to remember that there were bigger, more important things, than killing.

The ceasefire lasted well past Christmas and even into 1915. It began with singing that drifted out over the debris-strewn waste of no-man's-land, the swapping of small gifts of food and cigarettes and a game of football. It also allowed many soldiers to bury their fallen comrades.

There is another equally touching story closer to home but little known outside the family concerned. It began in August 1912 at Duart on the Island of Mull when MacLeans from all over the world gathered to celebrate the castle's return to the family after 200 years.

Among the 700 people present were Alexander John Hew Maclean (1880-1930), 16th laird and chief of Ardgour and a high-ranking officer in the German army, whose family, the Macleans of Coll, had gone out there as mercenaries in the 1600s.

Two years after the Duart celebrations, Great Britain and Germany were at war.

Alexander Maclean enlisted in his local regiment, the 8th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. A few weeks after arriving in France in August 1914 with the second battalion,



he fought at Le Cateau where more than 8,000 British soldiers died, including 44 men of the Argylls, attempting to halt the German advance after the Battle of Mons.

Alexander, by now a captain, was officially reported missing and not heard of until early October when his London bankers notified his family at Ardgour that a cheque, signed a fortnight before, had just come in suggesting he had been captured and was unharmed.

On November 24, 1914, confirmation of his incarceration came in a postcard from Torgau, a POW camp on the banks of the Elbe in north western Saxony, addressed to Thomas Maclean, ferry master and tenant of the Nether Lochaber Hotel, to whom he was related: 'I am in good health but wish above all that I was back with the regiment.'

'This is a dreadful waste of time. I got one good day only, a fine fight with a fine enemy. Was very lucky not to be hit, but unlucky not to get away. I look forward so much to returning to my best friends and seeing you all again.'

'Beannachd [Blessing] ARDGOUR.'

By February 1916, Alexander was in Blankenburg prison near Berlin, whose commandant, by one of those curious twists of

fate, was Rittmeister Archibald Maclean von Czerbienczin whose company he had enjoyed at Duart in 1912.

A second postcard to Thomas Maclean that year contained a hint of things to come: 'My dear Thomas, your letter and card were most welcome, but I could have wished the label [advertising fine old Highland whisky] had been stuck onto a bottle instead of a postcard. However, it is a good view of the ferry [Corran] which I am glad to have up on the wall. I would write oftener if there was anything to say and did write to you once when I had a bit of news to give you.'

'But this life is wanting in interest. I was glad to get your letter telling me [that] the news you gave the best friends a man ever had, pleased them. May the time come soon when I shall bring home someone who will please them more. My health and spirits could not be better under the circumstances but as there seems no hope of a return to the front, I live in the future for a return home. God bless you and yours and all at Ardgour.'

That 'someone' was the Hon Muriel Burns, younger daughter of Lord and Lady Inverclyde of Castle Weymss, whom he met in 1908. Muriel had been a nurse at the front before joining the



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# Time to refuel?





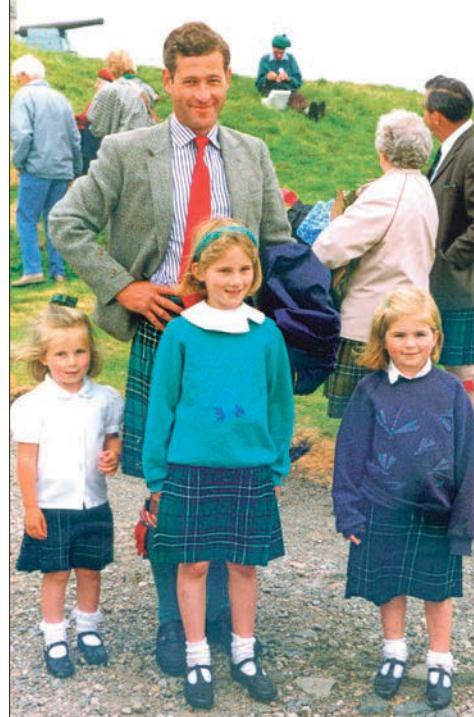
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# Twist of fate



Far left: Captain Alexander and the Hon Mrs Maclean of Ardgour following their marriage at The Hague in 1918 when Alexander was still a POW (Photograph: Maclean of Ardgour Papers); Robin Maclean, 18th chief of Ardgour, grandson of Alexander and Muriel Maclean, with his daughters, Helen, Sarah and Miranda at the 1992 clan Gathering at Duart, 80 years after his grandfather met his captor there in 1912; and Alexander 16th Chief of Ardgour (left) with Sir Fitzroy Maclean, 27th Chief of the Clan Maclean in 1912 (Photographs: Iain Thornber)

Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD), a voluntary unit of civilians providing nursing care for military personnel.

The engagement was announced on August 17, 1918, by which time Muriel was at The New Hospital at The Hague in neutral Holland, prompting Alexander to ask his kinsman and captor, Rittmeister Archibald Maclean, if he would release him on parole for two weeks to allow him to get married. Knowing him as a man of honour who would not break his word, the commandant readily agreed.

The marriage was celebrated from the British Legation at The Hague on Thursday, September 5, 1918 - 100 years ago yesterday. A civil ceremony, which was and still is necessary in Holland, took place in the town hall. The witnesses were Pieter Maclean Pont, representing an old Dutch branch of the Clan Maclean, and Thomas Dale, the director in Holland of Kodak Ltd.

The Rev Herbert Ratford, chaplain to the legation, officiated at the religious service at the Anglican Church of St John and St Philip. As the couple left the church, 10 regimental pipers played them to their carriage to the tune of The Highland Wedding.

The brief honeymoon was spent sailing on

the Frisian lakes. There were many wedding gifts, including a silver jug from Her Royal Highness Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll and Honorary Colonel-in-Chief of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Two months after the wedding, Alexander was repatriated and reunited with his regiment and ordered to join the staff at Scottish command headquarters. He left the regular army in 1922 and was promoted Lt Col on the Reserve of Officers in 1924.

He and Muriel returned to Ardgour where they raised five daughters. Alexander died very suddenly in 1930 of a heart attack outside Kiel House, Ardgour, aged 50. Muriel passed away in 1976. On the death of her father, their eldest daughter, Catriona, became the 17th laird and chief of Ardgour and was succeeded by her nephew Robin, the present chief.

At his funeral, Alexander was described as an officer and a gentleman in every sense of the term. It was said that he was loved and respected by every officer and man of the 8th Argylls. Pipe Major John McLellan DCM, Dunoon, who had served with him, later composed the popular pipe tune, Colonel Maclean of Ardgour, one of the best 2/4 marches ever written.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

We delve into The Oban Times archives to bring you faces and places from yesteryears



This week's photograph was sent to us by David Guest, who said: 'It shows the Kerrera ferry launch and slip, and was taken by my aunt, Dr Mary Guest, with her new SLR. The ferryman, Mr Beaton, holds the launch from drifting away by dint of a boot on the gunwhale, as he habitually chats to the passengers disembarking. Beaton, who hailed from the Outer Isles, was a tremendously friendly and helpful man. During the busy summer he used to let me, as a 12-year old, take the tiller as we plied back and forth. Sadly, an excitement now made impossible for a child. Then, Beaton's 15-year old son used to operate the ferry solo.'



This atmospheric photograph shows Fort William High Street during the summer of 1933.  
Picture courtesy of Roamer

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# LETTERS

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or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

## Wheely great effort

The smile on Willie Neilson's face as he cycled into Station Square on Saturday accompanied by his sister-in-law Laura, who has cerebral palsy, said it all.

After completing a 737-mile charity cycle from Land's End to Oban, raising a fantastic £12,000 (with more still coming in) for his three chosen charities, the relief and delight to see so many people out to welcome him home was clear for all to see.

It's not surprising he was feeling emotional. It was such a great achievement.

And the fact that he had so many people supporting him and who donated to his three causes – Alzheimer's Scotland, the Craighalbert Centre, and the Beatson Cancer Charity – is, yet again, a fantastic testament to the community spirit and generosity of people in Argyll.

So, well done Willie, you deserve huge congratulations for your determination and big-hearted effort.

## Oban Bay meeting

The row over who should have control Oban Bay continues, with a crucial meeting taking place tonight (Thursday).

A recent consultation saw an 'overwhelming' majority vote for a trust port.

Now BID4Oban's chief executive Andrew Spence has urged the public to attend the meeting in Oban's Corran Halls at 7.30pm to 'make Oban Bay Management Group listen and react with meaningful and constructive dialogue rather than attempt to bulldozer through its plans regardless'.

This is clearly a complex and vitally important matter to the town, so we would encourage people to attend and make their views known, because once a decision is made, it will be difficult to reverse.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact phone number will not be printed.

Please email: [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk) or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001.

At the Oban Times we endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time. If we have published anything that is factually incorrect, please email: [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk); telephone on 01631 568000; or write the Editor at The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO by calling 0300 123 2220 or email: [inquiries@ipso.co.uk](mailto:inquiries@ipso.co.uk). We will abide by the decision of IPSO.



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## Safety system is required urgently at Connel Bridge

Before an Australian driver crosses a major low bridge, he must first pass under a horizontal beam that emits a loud noise if his load is too high. If he ignores the racket, he does so at his peril.

Is it beyond the wit of our road engineers to rig up something similar for Connel Bridge where dangerous, expensive and disruptive incidents are becoming all too common?

As a secondary issue, it should surely be a matter of routine to allocate a policeman to point duty at the bridge junction when major tailbacks occur.

Currently when the bridge is re-opened after an incident, north-bound traffic gets automatic priority and, until it clears, all south-bound traffic remains gridlocked – most recently for anything up to a further half hour.

**Andrew McIntyre,  
Barcaldine.**

## Rabbits seem to like the new plastic 'grass'

The new 'grass' at Oban Retail Park may be fake but the rabbit droppings are real and they like doing their business all over the new shiny plastic turf outside the new Marks and Spencer Foodhall. Which begs the question: does rabbit poo biodegrade through plastic or does it just vanish?

**Stephen Jones,  
Burnside Place, Mill Park, Oban.**

## Council should publish attendance records

Could I suggest as a cost-saving measure that Argyll and Bute Council introduces legislation or an attendance page on its website in line with many other local authorities?

The council needs to publish attendance records of our councillors in an easy format via a web page so voters can make an informed choice based on the past performance of incumbents. Some council meetings are rubber-stamping exercises and a councillor can still do a good job without attending them.

In line with other councils, a monitoring officer could be appointed and could consider whether to launch a petition for a councillor to resign if he or she has, over the municipal year, an overall attendance below 40 per cent, attended less than two full council or community committee meetings, been convicted of a crime or moved outside the elected area.

If such a petition was set up, going by my calculations more than 33 per cent of elected councillors in the council would have to sign for a by-election to be triggered. In effect, we are wasting at least 33 percent of the council's councillor budget expenses for the period from April 1, 2017, to March 31, 2018.

There are more ways to save money than budget cuts to the most vulnerable and in-

### GET IN TOUCH

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# YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase people's images each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here,

simply send it to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk), post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street,

## Moving ceremony recalls the fallen from Islay

I was proud to be in the village of Portnahaven on Islay to attend the ceremony to mark the 100th anniversary of the actions at Henin and Fontaine-Les-Croisilles, France (August 24 and 27, 1918) and the award of the Victoria Cross to temporary lieutenant David Lowe MacIntyre, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 1/6 Battalion Highland Light Infantry.

There was the unveiling of the commemorative stone and prayers remembering those killed or wounded in the war, especially during the actions at Henin and Fontaine-Les-Croisilles.

It was great to be joined at the event by Argyll and Bute Armed Forces Champion Councillor Barbara Morgan and the convener of the cross-party group in the Scottish Parliament on armed forces and veterans community, Maurice Corry MSP.

We also had a chance to visit the Museum of Islay Life and see the Stars and Stripes flag produced overnight on Islay so that the American soldiers who died after the sinking of the SS

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

editor@obantimes.co.uk



buggies, tents, sleeping bags and other articles has gone to Cononbridge to be included in a container to go to those in such desperate need.

Your generosity, thoughtfulness and kindness is overwhelming. Thank you all so much.  
**The Lochaber Supports Refugees Team**

### Time for council to take control over Oban Bay

Given the Oban Bay Stakeholders' Group's overwhelming endorsement of the proposal to consolidate Oban as a local authority port (a status it effectively has already), with the longer-term aim of transforming it into a trust port, it is galling to note the continued efforts by CMAL to promote its own undemocratic and self-serving agenda to turn Oban into a nationalised port.

CMAL has put up, unsuccessfully, it is now time for it to shut up.

The council's approach to this matter, through the Oban Bay Management Group, has been at worst negligent, and at best merely baffling.

Local authorities have a duty to accommodate underlying statutory requirements in their approach to the management of municipal ports (both in local government legislation and in any specific local harbours legislation – which exists for the erstwhile Oban General Harbour Authority area).

Municipal ports should form an integral part of the policy framework of a local authority and be treated in the same way, and be afforded the same priorities within that policy framework as any other service.

The local authority also has a statutory duty to address stakeholder requirements and take full account of the commercial viability of port operations for the benefit of the wider community.

Transport Scotland has endorsed the trust port model laid out in the Modernising Trust Ports: a Guide to Good Governance document, which has been widely circulated around the stakeholder group and which is, presumably, familiar to members of the management group.

It offers tried and tested forms of governance and fiduciary responsibilities; many of these, such as adoption of a harbour management committee structure and making executive members of harbour boards (ie. the Oban Bay Management Group) properly accountable to the full council for the decisions they make, have been successfully adopted by other Scottish local authorities.

Argyll and Bute Council should step up and get on with it – adopt the principal recommendations in this document, from which a baseline can be established to properly assess the viability of turning Oban into a trust port.

**Fergus G R Gillanders**  
**Craigaoil**  
**Kilmelford**

It has been so successful that a lorry containing 213 boxes of clothing – for adults and children – knitting, sewing, bedding, prams,

Am fear a bhios a' roinn na maraig, bidh 'n ceann reamhar aige fhéin! Iallan mòr à leathar chàich! Tha na seansfhacail seo agus iomadh eisimpleir eile den t-seòrsa nan dearbhadh gun robh na Gàidheil eòlach gu leòr air sannt agus air cho doirbh 's a tha e cùisean a roinn gu cothromach eatarra. Chan eil sin idir a' ciallachadh gun robh Gàidheil eadar-dhealaichte bho chinnidhean eile feadh an t-saoghal oir tha feàinealachd agus sannt cho nàdarra dha mac an duine ri bhith a' tarraing analach!

Anns na sgriobh mi mun chòmhlan Runrig bho chionn seachdhan thug mi iomradh air feannagan-taomaidh (neo talamh-taomaidh mar a th' aig faclair MhicIII Fhinnein) agus bha na feannagan sin nan oidhrip mhath air cothromachadh a dhèanamh air àiteachas ann am bailtean beaga feadh Alba. Bha dòigh aig na daoine air cruinn a chur ach am biodh gach ball den choimhearsnachd a' faotainn cothrom bliadhna ma seach air an fhearrann a' b' fhèarr anns na bailtean, agus bidh e coltach gun do dh'obraich sin riatanach math leis gun do lean an cleachdadh fad ghi-nealaichean, mar a chithear

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am Màrt agus an Dàmhair gach bliadhna ach foadaidh iasgairean à Breatainn an grunnad a sgríobadh mar a thogras iad aig àm sam bith. Theagamh gun tig air cabhlaichean Bhreatann is na Frainge air smachd a chur air an t-suidheachadh, ach saoilidh mi gum bheil seo na fhàsneachd air tuilleadh dhuilgheadasan agus chos-gaisean a' dion ghruinnd iasgaich na dùthcha seo an déidh dealachadh Bhrexit!

Irrespective of one's opinions on the opportunity which Europe's fishery policy gives to vessels from other member states to fish UK waters, it does seem odd that British scallop dredgers can operate freely in the Baie de Seine grounds where French fishermen are restricted to four months per year to preserve stocks!

Post Brexit protection of British fishing grounds must prevent intrusion by foreign boats, and it must also regulate UK catching patterns.

That will be challenging, and costly.

Ailean Caimbeul  
(Allan Campbell)  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk



Fort William. This week's photograph is sent to us by Mary Brown, who said the stunning sunset 'was taken looking west from Connel one evening at the end of July'.

Tuscania could be buried with honour under their own flag, and which made the 3,500-mile journey back to Islay 100 years on.

The flag was sent to President Woodrow Wilson and is now in the collections of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington DC.

A huge thanks to all of the organisers, volunteers and everyone else who attended and made this ceremony possible.

It is so important that we never forget the sacrifice of these young men who died so that we may continue to enjoy the freedoms we so often take for granted.

**Councillor Alastair Redman,  
Islay.**

### Charity says thank you for kind donations

Lochaber Supports Refugees would like to thank everyone for their kind donations and help following our appeal for warm winter clothing.

It has been so successful that a lorry containing 213 boxes of clothing – for adults and children – knitting, sewing, bedding, prams,

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# DISTRICT NEWS

## DALAVICH

A £1.5 million community-powered hydro scheme at Dalavich launches its second share offer this month.

Originally 90 people joined the scheme, investing around £200,000 in the hydro before it started generating electricity on January 31 on the River Avich. The scheme now hopes its first post-construction re-financing share offer will bring in hundreds of thousands of pounds so that more of its debt is in the form of shares rather than having to pay back banks, which would be more expensive.

Awesome Energy (Dalriada), set up as a community benefit business by villagers to provide renewable energy for the nation but also as a way of generating income for village projects, is expected to make £2 million in the next 20 years, partnering up with Braeavallach Hydro to share its grid connection. Shares have a nominal value of £1 and will be sold in batches of £25. To register an interest, go to awesome-energy.com



Karelia on the road in Mull.

## MULL

A business that hosts crafting roadshows has just got back from Mull.

Highland Perthshire crafting business Karelia House has been touring the Western Isles over the past two years with its packed van - and the idea came from Mull.

Owner Shirley Shearer said: 'The idea came about when we were asked by customers from Mull if we would come over. We looked into it and decided to give it a go, and it was a huge success, very well attended by local people.'

Manager Harriet Gray, who also attends the events, along with Shirley, her son Ewan and another experienced colleague Kaye, said: 'We had a great time in Mull a few weekends ago. It was a lot of fun but hard work as ever, but we

all enjoy engaging with customers in this part of the world. We are pretty sure we're the only crafting business in Scotland to take our shop out on the road in this way.'

## TAYNUILT

Woodland Trust has named Taynuilt Trees as one of five Scottish tree nurseries as part of an accreditation scheme designed to keep pests and diseases out of the country.

The accreditation scheme has been launched to highlight tree nurseries whose products are UK-sourced and grown. Between 1970 and 2013, 267 plant pathogens became established in Great Britain and more recently a new pest, the zigzag elm sawfly, has arrived presumably on imported tree stock, says Lee Dudley, projects manager for the Woodland Trust. He added: 'Our accreditation scheme is a stamp of approval. It means saplings can be traced back to where they came from. We want more people to ask where their trees come from and nurseries can ask to join.'

## LOCH AWE

Friends of St Conan's Kirk is keen to provide tours to individuals or groups interested in the church's history. Call 01838 200210 to arrange a tour.

The kirk is celebrating a £100,000 funding boost from Our Heritage National Lottery Fund and an Historic Environmental Scotland grant that will help secure its future as one of Scotland's most unique architectural attractions.

The Fold, a four-piece band from Oban, will be playing live at the Ben Cruachan Inn on Saturday September 8 from 8.30pm performing a mix of rock, pop and soul covers.

## BENDERLOCH

Bookends Festival hosted its final pop-up session in the Victory Hall before the start of its two-week event later this month.

Visitors picked up programmes to find out about the authors, storytelling sessions, theatre, Bookbug's visit, music and creative workshops coming to the village soon. It starts on Saturday September 22. Go to bookends.scot.

## SEIL

Senior badminton re-starts at Seil Island Hall on Tuesday September 11 from 2pm to 4pm. New members of any level welcome.

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Members of the Easdale branch of the Royal British Legion with Squadron Leader, the Rev Neil Galloway, who opened the annual sale which raised £2,168.

## Easdale legion's record-breaking sale

Easdale's branch of the Royal British Legion raised £2,168 at its annual sale, making it a record breaker.

Organisers were thrilled with the big turnout on Saturday August 24 and thanked all the volunteers

who helped out on the day. The sale, at Seil Island Hall, opened with a speech by Squadron Leader the Rev Neil Galloway who encouraged people to keep supporting the charity's work with veterans.

'We raised £2,168.52, the most we have ever raised, so a huge thanks to all the community and visitors who supported us by visiting and helping on the day,' said branch chairman John Alexander.

## GRIMSAY

The community of Grimsay will celebrate the harvest festival on Wednesday September 12.

The event will take place at Ceann na h-Airigh, Scotvein, from 10am with something for everyone including exhibitions, fun activities for children, food and gardening advice.

This year's Dark Island Quaich will go to the best creation, including dairy.

A spokesman said: 'It could be sweet or savoury and could range from crowdie to rice pudding to mac and cheese to caragheen pudding.'

Dishes should be brought to Ceann na h-Airigh between 9am and 10am on September 12, with judging from 11am. There will also be a competition to guess how much sweet tea Margaret Wiseman has picked this season.



Unveiling of the commemorative stone and prayers said at a ceremony in Portnahaven on Islay.

## ISLAY

A ceremony in Portnahaven, Islay, has marked the 100th anniversary of the actions at Henin and Fontaine-Les-Croisilles in France and the award of the Victoria Cross to temporary lieutenant David Lowe Macintyre of the Argyll

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and Sutherland Highlanders 1/6 Battalion Highland Light Infantry.

There was the unveiling of a commemorative stone and prayers were said remembering those killed or wounded in war, especially those two conflicts. Argyll and Bute Armed Forces Champion Councillor Barbara Morgan and the convener of cross-party group in the Scottish Parliament on armed forces and veterans community Maurice Corry MSP was also there.

## ARDMADDY

A sporting clay pigeon shoot and supporters' match at Ardmaddy raised £1,000 for Friends of Kilbride, the RNLI and Motor Neurone charities.

Charles Struthers from Ardmaddy Castle said 25 guns took part in the shoot on Saturday August 25 including a number of novices who were tutored to produce some excellent results.

Liam Griffin organised a well-supported raffle and prizes for contestants and a barbecue was provided by Karen Payne of Silver Lace and her helpers. Mr Struthers added: 'The event was organised by Charlie Boyd and thanks go to him and all his helpers.'

## STRATHFILLAN

A complaint about a group of scouts camping on Lower Station Yard in Crianlarich has reached Strathfillan Community Council.

Questions were raised at its July meeting about the legality of camping so close to residential buildings. The National Park and Stirling Council were to be contacted about it.

Lorry trailers and logs are also being left overnight in the same spot, members heard.

The portable toilet on Lower Station Yard will now be kept, despite complaints about it, the community council has decided.

Community councillors have met with Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband, OpenReach, political representatives and members of the community to discuss progress on fibre rollout in Strathfillan. The last community council meeting was on Monday. A report from Tyndrum Action Group was on the agenda.

## ELLENABEICH

Argyll and Bute Council is considering plans for a bus and coach turning circle in the village. Community feedback has been invited on the proposal. Full details are available on the community council website at [seil.oban.ws](http://seil.oban.ws)



The delegation of Danish MPs visit CalMac in Oban.

## Visiting Danish MPs explore road tariff policy impact

Danish MPs have been in Oban and on the islands on a fact-finding mission.

The two-day visit was organised in conjunction with the Scottish Islands Federation.

The group wanted to find out more about the Scottish Government's Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) and its impact on island communities as Denmark is considering introducing a similar policy.

During its four-day visit to Scotland, the group was also due to meet Island Minister Paul Wheelhouse in Edinburgh and other government representatives.

Delegates travelled from Oban to Mull on their first day for meetings with CalMac, Mull and Iona Community Trust and Tobermory Harbour Association.

After a visit to Island Bakery Organics

Mull with owners Dawn and Joe Read they met with Neal Goldsmith of CalMac Community Board to discuss RET before returning to Oban.

A meeting with Oban Port Manager Shona Ackford started off their second day followed by a short journey to Luing on the Cuan ferry for a visit to the Atlantic Island Centre to hear presentations from the Scottish Islands Federation and Luing Development Trust.

The last appointment of the day was back on the mainland at the Scottish Association for Marine Science in Dunstaffnage.

A spokesman for the visiting MPs said the trip had been of great interest and added: 'It was particularly interesting hearing more about RET because we are thinking of doing the same in Denmark.'

## At random

**MARTIN LAING**

[mlaing@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mlaing@obantimes.co.uk)



## Maritime visitors welcome

I was bemused last week by the response on social media to a photograph I posted of the cruise ships Hebridean Sky and Astor in Oban Bay.

There were, in fairness, few comments but those that were posted complained about the visitors disembarking causing traffic congestion.

While there may have been some inconvenience, surely that pales into insignificance compared to the benefits which accrue to the town from these vessels opting to come here.

I know from speaking to them that the good people at BID4Oban are thrilled these ships disgorge their many hundreds of passengers into our streets to spend their tourist pounds in our shops, cafes, pubs and restaurants.

The vast majority of Oban residents make these visitors very welcome and I would expect nothing less.

Recent years have seen Oban and the isles booming as a destination of choice.

We have to see the bigger picture when it comes to the local economy. Thousands of people rely on these tourists for their livelihoods.

Let's continue to make them welcome.

## Excitement over M&S

While I'm on about the economy, there was considerable excitement across the region last week on the day of the new M&S Foodhall opening.

I think it is brilliant for the town and its surrounding area to have such a big name business show its confidence in the area by opening a flagship store here.

The new outlet has already created 48 jobs, which can only be a good thing, increasing prosperity in Argyll.

What's more, there will be more jobs to come in the town soon when the new Premier Inn is completed.

Construction is proceeding well, it seems, though I don't think there is a date set yet for its opening. And the Oban as a University Town project continues to attract young people here to study.

While it is important not to be complacent, overall our economy appears to be doing very well.

## What do you think?

Write to me at [mlaing@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mlaing@obantimes.co.uk) or The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB, or call 01631 568021.

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# OUTDOORS

**Lochaber Environmental Group**

## Foraged Foods

Traditionally minds turn to images of home-grown root vegetables or peas growing on canes when we think of making our own produce but there is more than one way to source healthy, sustainable local food.

From our prehistoric ancestors who gathered through necessity to the tradition of the berry picking from our youth. Our history is connected with this gathering past.

Recently, Claire Holohan of West Highland Herbal took a group of Nevis Landscape Partnership interns deep into the woods of Glen Nevis to give them an insight into just what can be eaten. And the answer is, quite a lot. From sorrel to willow weed, the list is a long one.

If you would like to see the countryside differently and discover a world of gathered food you hadn't known was there, then Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) and Nevis Landscape Partnership (NLP) are co-hosting a similar event on Saturday September 29 in Glen Nevis with another herbalist, Roisin Lyle-Collins of Resilientroots.

Book a place either on the guided walk in the morning to gather herbs and plants or on the afternoon workshop to learn how to prepare wild foods.

Feel free to attend both sessions – numbers permitting – just follow the links:

- [tinyurl.com/y9klt7h4](http://tinyurl.com/y9klt7h4) (Walk) 10.30am-1pm
- [tinyurl.com/y9klt7h4](http://tinyurl.com/y9klt7h4) (Workshop) 1.30-4pm

Lochaber Environmental Group is funded by the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund. If you would like a FREE home composting starter kit or support to start growing, get in touch with Stephen on 01397 700090 or info@lochaberenviro.org.uk

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# Wildlife legend heads for the Highlands

by Mark Entwistle  
[mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk)

If legendary naturalist and broadcaster Sir David Attenborough thinks wildlife cameramen don't come much more special than Doug Allan, you had better sit up and take note.

For those uncertain of why the presenter of such famous wildlife series as the Blue Planet and Life on Earth holds Fife-born Allan in such high regard, then a trip to Fort William or Oban in October may hold the answer.

Multi-award-winning Allan will embark on a major speaking tour that will take in the Nevis Centre in Fort William (October 13) and the Corran Halls in Oban (October 15).

Audiences at each of the venues will be treated to an evening of behind-the-scenes stories in a show that is both entertaining and informative as well as being suitable for all the family.

With 35 years' experience of filming wildlife in some of the most remote places on the planet, from the Arctic to some of the deepest of oceans, Allan will highlight the most challenging assignments of his career.

Find out if snow leopards or leopard seals are the most scary; discover how to get close to the biggest fish in the sea; and hear whether your eyeballs freeze at -50°C.

Following two sell-out tours of Scotland, this new presentation traces Allan's personal journey as he discusses how he has seen pollution and climate change affect the natural world.

Allan spent seven years in Antarctica as a scientist, research diver and photographer for the British Antarctic Survey before changing direction to full-time freelance filming in 1983.

Since then he has become one of the world's best-known and most-respected cameramen, specialising in natural history, expeditions and science documentaries.

He has worked for the BBC, Discovery, National Geographic and many others, filming for series including The Blue Planet, Planet



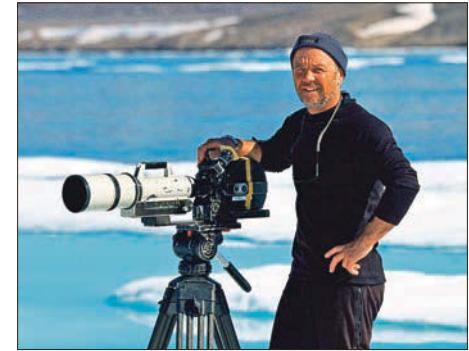
Doug Allan filming an emperor penguin colony and, below, in the Arctic.

Earth, Human Planet, Frozen Planet, Ocean Giants, Operation Iceberg, Wild Cameramen at Work, and Forces of Nature with Brian Cox.

His photographic awards include eight Emmys and five BAFTAs. He has four honorary doctorates in recognition of his camerawork, as well as two Polar Medals. He's an honorary fellow of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and of the Royal Photographic Society.

Copies of Allan's book Freeze Frame will be on sale, as well as his colour prints of polar bears, penguins and seals.

Full tour details at [www.dougallan.com](http://www.dougallan.com)



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At the Calanais standing stones are, left to right, Simon Butler, Minister Paul Wheelhouse, Murdoch Macleod, from the Scottish Government, and Donald MacArthur, from Outer Hebrides Tourism.

## Project connects with the past

A Scottish Government minister was in the Hebrides last month to see how the Isle of Lewis' ancient past is being recreated using the very latest in digital technology.

Minister for connectivity and the islands Paul Wheelhouse was at Calanais to find out how the Lewis-based charitable trust Urras nan Tursachan, in partnership with St Andrews University, is using cutting-edge geophysics and digital technology to bring to life a monumental landscape lost for 5,000 years.

The trust operates the Calanais Visitor Centre, one of the most visited tourism locations in the Outer Hebrides with more than 50,000 visitors in 2017. The centre acts as the gateway to the iconic Calanais standing stones, among the most important monuments in Scotland.

Mr Wheelhouse said: 'I very much enjoyed my visit to Calanais. There is clearly something very special about the stones themselves and this site and the surrounding landscape is of truly global cultural significance.'

'The centre's digital project will

preserve every detail of this iconic Scottish location. By using virtual and augmented reality, all visitors to the island – regardless of age or mobility – will be able to experience Neolithic Lewis, as part of an exciting new Calanais Visitor Centre project opening in 2021.

'With improved connectivity, we can provide a platform for businesses to transform how they work, opening up efficiencies, opportunities and improving the economic prospects of our most remote areas.'

'Earlier, the first minister announced our current Digital Scotland roll-out in the Highlands and Islands is reaching further than its initial target. Great Bernera, which we can see from the Calanais stones, is one of the areas which will have some coverage as a result.'

Against a background of visitor growth, Urras nan Tursachan is working with partners including Historic Environment Scotland, Heritage Lottery Fund, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to develop Calanais as a visitor attraction.

Simon Butler is the project delivery director for Urras Nan Tursachan. He said: 'Our digital project forms part of a community-led vision for Calanais.'

'It is a unique place, where visitors can see some of the oldest man-made structures in western Europe dating from 3,000 BC. Our work will secure and protect this remarkable landscape, and development of the visitor centre will play a key role in the delivery of economic growth for a fragile area.'

HIE is working with the trust, investing in both the three-year project development post and the digital heritage project.

HIE's Gordon MacDonald commented: 'As part of the Year of History Heritage and Archaeology, HIE, Interface and the trust developed this digital project with the University of St Andrews to 3D scan the stone circles and to map buried features associated with the site. It'll open up a hidden world for visitors and will play its part in providing high quality exhibitions in the new visitor centre.'

## This week's walks

### LOCHABER AND LORN RAMBLERS

The walk leader is to be contacted beforehand for meet-up and start times. Car sharing usually possible and people can try before they buy. Further information at [www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](http://www.lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk). Lochaber and Lorn Ramblers Group can be contacted by email on [info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk](mailto:info@lochaberandlorn-ramblers.org.uk).

### Sunday September 9 Altnafeadh to Blackwater Dam, Glen Coe

A high cross-country walk to the longest dam in the Highlands and a century-old hydro scheme. Grand views all round. Finish at the Ice Factor indoor ice and rock-climbing centre.

Start from the lay-by on the A82 at Altnafeadh, NN220563, where limited parking is available. Follow the WHW up the Devil's Staircase to the bealach and a large cairn at NN215576. Follow a path heading NE up to the summit of Beinn Bheag (616m). Continue NE, passing to the right of the crags, and descend to a watershed at NN 229591. Now go N to the flat summit of Meall Bad a'Bheith (428m). Descend NE to the track and follow it E to the graveyard and the Blackwater Dam.

There are two routes available from here to Kinlochleven.

Route one: If the water of the reservoir is not overtopping the dam, it is possible to walk across it. Alternatively, one may cross below the dam. From the N end of the dam head W on the footpath, forking left where it crosses the pipeline and bifurcates after ½ Km. Continue W on the path on the N side of the River Leven for about 6Km to a junction at NN1936619.

Turn left down to cross a bridge over the river, then continue W to the Ice Factor. In very wet weather, it may not be possible to cross the Allt Coire na Duibhe at NN226606. The second route does not cross the Dam.

Route two: Return along the track past the graveyard and continue W for 6Km to rejoin the WHW at the penstocks, NN201604. Descend on the track to the Ice Factor at Kinlochleven. Transport required. Buses at 1540 and 1740 to Glencoe, where a car should be left in the village CP to take driver(s) back to the start.

Grade: M; distance: 16kms; height to climb: 500m. Meet at Longsdale car park, Oban, at 8.45am of Glencoe village car park at 9.45am for start of walk at 10am. Leader: John Nicol 01852 300360.

### Thursday September 13 Beinn na Caillich and Mam na Gualainn, Kinlochleven

The route starts with an impressive view of these hills rising steeply from the waters of Loch Leven, then a fine E to W traverse with grandstand views of the Glen Coe hills, the Mamores and across Loch Linnhe. Start from the Grey Mare's Tail CP in Kinlochleven, NN187622. Head NW to join the main road, then fork right on to the WHW. Follow the path W up through pleasant woodland to reach a track at 250m alt. Continue W for about 1Km then leave the WHW, turning down SW on a path to cross the Allt Nathrach at a footbridge. Follow the path steeply uphill. It levels out at about 500m alt before steepening again up to the summit of Beinn na Caillich, 764m. Continue W on the path, which loses a little height before rising again to the summit of Mam na Gualainn, 796m. Descend W on easy slopes to a col, then turn S on the footpath down to the B863 E of Callert Ho. Transport required.

Grade: M+; distance: 10kms; height to climb: 900m. Meet at North Ballachulish school at 9.10am or Glencoe village car park at 9.15am for start of walk 9.30am. Leader: Ian Moir 07973 836498.

### NEVIS HILLWALKING CLUB

Full walk details at [www.nevishillwalking.club](http://www.nevishillwalking.club). If anyone would like to go out on the walk please contact club secretary Suzanne Theobald on 01397 701783 or email [enquiries@nevishillwalking.club](mailto:enquiries@nevishillwalking.club).

### Saturday September 8 Sgurr nan Coireachan, Garbh Chioch Mhor, Sgurr na Ciche, Loch Arkaig

From Strathan, head up the road past the remains of the barracks. Follow the path, on the north side of Glen Dessay, above the forest. Cross the Allt Coire nan Uth and leave the path to go north up the steep ridge to Sgurr nan Coireachan.

To continue the traverse, go steeply WSW to the Bealach Coire nan Gall. Follow the drystane dyke west along a succession of outcrops over Garbh Chioch Bheag to the summit of Garbh Chioch Mhor. Keep following the dyke west then NNW to the col below Sgurr na Ciche. Zig-zag through the crags and boulders up to the summit of Sgurr na Ciche. To descend, return to the col, go SW towards Coire na Ciche, and traverse SE to the path in the Bealach an Lagain, and onwards to Strathan.

Distance: 24kms; height to climb: 1750ms. Suggested and coordinated by Chris Tracey.

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### Throwers and Dreamers

Following from last week's article, I am very happy to report that Murdo Masterson of Dunbeg achieved yet another great milestone in his heavy athletics career on Saturday (September 1), by winning both the heavy and light hammer at The Braemar Highland Gathering.

It is believed, as with many of Murdo's accomplishments this year, that at 19 years old, he is the youngest athlete ever to come first in both these events at this very prestigious Highland Games.

The following is a verse taken from a song we worked on and never finished a few years ago:

*Believe, believe the time will come, The dawning day, the rising sun; No mighty oaks or medals gleam. Before the acorn, or the dream.*

The above few lines give a fairly simple message. It is certainly not the most orig-

inal or linguistically elegant lyric, but I believe strongly in the essence of the idea being conveyed. Last weekend, Murdo Masterson received a solid silver medal from HRH Prince Charles at the Braemar Highland Gathering and that medal was the direct result of a young boy having a dream and following it.

I remember clearly when Murdo, accompanied by his dad, first began to receive lessons in Highland Games events from coaches Shaun Bate and Jock Ross. None of us who witnessed Murdo's early efforts could have predicted that from a 14-year-old novice,

in less than five years he would become one of the best hammer throwers in the world. Shaun and Jock gave Murdo the bug for throwing and that bug became a dream. The acorn of that dream, watered by Murdo's effort, dedication and commitment, his coaches and his parents is now becoming a mighty oak. Dreams are

born by having a view of your future potential that is unrealistic in relation to your current circumstances. If they were otherwise, they would merely be plans carried out in the confines of the conventional road of life. Too many dreams are dashed by people being told to be realistic.

Consider the number of potential world-class musicians, athletes, adventurers, computer scientists, and followers of any other human endeavour who never made it past the first hurdle of their desired path because they were told they were dreamers and that their aims were unrealistic.

Murdo's journey encapsulates the very essence of why dreams should be embraced and followed. When Murdo said a number of years ago that he wanted to become a record-breaking Highland Games athlete, he was being unrealistic. His dream is now a reality.

As dreams come true, so new

### Oban jobs fair for cleaning and catering posts

Argyll and Bute Council is holding a recruitment fair in Oban next month to showcase the variety of cleaning and catering jobs available.

The event will take place on Wednesday September 19 in Lorn House from 10am until 3pm.

Councillor Rory Colville said: 'We have a number of catering and cleaning vacancies in the Oban and Lorn area, so this event is a great opportunity for people to drop in and find out more about the positions available. If suitable, interviews can be

held on the day.' The vacant posts are a mix of term-time positions in schools, full-time and part-time jobs, and temporary positions and permanent posts.

To find out more information, call 01631 567830 or 01631 567999.

# Injured sailor is rescued by Oban lifeboat

The volunteer crew of Oban lifeboat Mora Edith MacDonald were called to assist a sailor injured near the Isle of Easdale after suffering a dislocated shoulder and possible broken arm.

At 1.54pm on Tuesday August 28 Oban RNLI was asked by the UK Coastguard to assist a 12-metre yacht which had put out a distress call.

While sailing close to the Isle of Easdale, the sailing boat unexpectedly crash gybed. A crash gybe occurs when a boat is steered, or the winds shift, such that the boat's stern unintentionally passes through the eye of the wind.

When this occurs the boom swings violently and uncontrollably from one side of the boat to the other.

The force of the boom's motion can injure or kill crew, damage equipment, and even dismast the boat.

In this instance one of the two people on board was left with a dislocated shoulder and a possible broken arm.

Following the gybe, the other crew member on board



The sailor was injured aboard the yacht when it gybed.

regained control of the yacht and sent out an immediate distress call.

Oban lifeboat left the berth at 2.03pm, with eight volunteer crew aboard. This is more than the lifeboat would normally carry, but it was decided that an additional crew member was prudent to help with moving the injured sailor and sailing the yacht if needed.

Oban lifeboat arrived on scene at 2.33pm and immediately transferred three of the crew to the yacht.

Two of the crew checked the injured sailor over while the other two helped to bring the yacht into calmer waters

to allow the man to be transferred to the lifeboat.

At 2.49pm, he was taken off the yacht along with the two lifeboat crew looking after him. An additional member of the lifeboat crew was then transferred to the yacht to help bring it into Oban.

The lifeboat left and headed for Oban, arriving back in the berth at 3.10pm where the injured man was transferred to Oban Coastguard team and taken to Lorn and Islands Hospital.

The lifeboat then went back out to rendezvous with the yacht and escorted it into the North Pier transit marina.

The lifeboat then returned

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# Your guide to independent schools

## Choosing wisely and planning for their future

### Is an independent school the best move for your child?

There are as many reasons for choosing to send your child to an independent school as there are children.

Each child is unique.

Do you think your child is being stretched enough to realise their full potential or perhaps there are areas where they need extra help.

No matter how good their state school is there will always be an element of 'one-size-fits-all' in some aspects of school life. If, for some

reason, your son or daughter is the one who is finding it hard to make that fit you cannot help but wonder if they would be better off in the independent sector.

Independent education is affordable. Good financial advice, prudence, plus parents and grandparents working together over savings and inheritance all make independent education achievable. One of the biggest mistakes people

make about private education is that they cannot afford it and never even consider the idea.

At least £349 million has been given annually in fee assistance in the independent education sector in Scotland; with just under 27 per cent of all pupils receiving some form of assistance.

State school budgets are tighter now than they have ever been and this can make the extra-curricular activities



and enhanced pastoral care of the independent sector look like money well spent in providing for your child's future.

Class sizes can be a key point for children from remote or rural areas like the West Highlands and islands who have attended

state primary schools with smaller classes, who may find themselves overwhelmed by the size of secondary schools.

Is your child thriving in their present school?

The 73 independent schools in Scotland, of which 19 are boarding schools, educate 4.1 per cent of pupils nationwide;

52 are main stream, 21 offer additional support.

Independent education is one of the most important decisions you will make for your family and to help inform that decision you can visit the website of the Scottish Council of Independent Schools: [www.scis.org.uk](http://www.scis.org.uk).

## Merchiston Profile

Number of pupils 440

Age range 7-18

Boarding and day pupils, boys

Qualifications GCSE, IGCSE, A Level

Merchiston is the only boys' independent boarding school in Scotland, offers the English curriculum, and has a global, outward-looking dimension.

The school has an impressive record of helping boys excel beyond their predictions. The latest academic results at every level offer clear evidence of our value-added and commitment to leading students towards personal excellence. Furthermore, boys have gained places at some of the leading British, Ivy League and other outstanding international universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

Merchiston prides itself on fostering the pursuit of excellence in a sport-for-all environment. We believe in teaching an understanding of the role of sport and physical activity in achieving an active and healthy lifestyle.

Merchiston's specialist academies are at the top of their game: No 1 Junior Golf School in the UK (fifth year running) and No 2 World Tennis School 2017.\*

Whether a pupil joins as a boarder, or a day boy, learning and fun opportunities are

not limited to school hours but continue throughout the day, evening and weekend – on the pitches, in our classrooms, and in our Houses.

"A balanced curriculum, excellent pastoral care and a high A level pass rate make Merchiston one of the UK's leading independent schools" is how ukboardingschools.com rated the school.

Merchiston is a remarkable school where boys make lifelong friends, whilst gaining a world-class education.

\*Independent Schools Golf Association / International School Sport Federation



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will quickly realise that their child will be known here - for who they are, for their individual abilities and for their potential.

### Academic excellence

Academically, we strive for excellence and our focus is to prepare pupils for higher education and beyond. Our flexible curriculum and innovative teaching means we can support every pupil, whatever their ambitions and style of learning.

Our pupils go on to Oxbridge and Russell Group universities, international study, work placements, professional sporting careers or even start their own business.

### An all round education

We believe that learning outside the classroom bolsters success inside the classroom - that's why we offer over 80 activities including everything from fencing to debating and clay target shooting to Model United Nations.

This holistic approach to education leads to a rich diversity of pupil experience and some exceptional achievements academically, in sports, the arts and many other areas. It also supports the development of well-rounded young people equipped with the appropriate

skills to succeed in life.

### Welcoming community

Strathallan is a close, safe and caring community. A large proportion of staff live on site with their families, creating a nurturing environment that feels like a home away from home for our boarding pupils.

We welcome day pupils in exactly the same way as boarding pupils and they share the full Strathallan experience together. All pupils are thoroughly involved in the life of their House and participate in School activities during the day, in the evenings and at weekends too.

### Global outlook

Although we enjoy the advantages of a self-contained, rural location, we're an international community and welcome young people from around the globe. This diversity of experience gives our pupils the maturity and cultural intelligence to go out into the world and succeed, as well as enjoying a worldwide network of friends.

Young people leave Strathallan prepared for the future. They have the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in their chosen career, and the confidence to make their mark on the world.



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modate up to 30 boarders. Their size means that boarding is like being part of an extended family, and boarders often forge deep and lasting friendships.

The schools offer more than 300 clubs and societies as well as unrivalled opportunities in sport, music and drama, outdoor education, trips and community involvement, all with the intention of helping your child discover their

talents, explore something new, have fun and make new friends.

Rated 'Excellent' in all categories assessed in our most recent Care Inspectorate Report, each child receives a high level of care and individual attention in the Houses.

For more information on boarding at ESMS, you can drop in to our upcoming Open Day, or visit [www.esms.org.uk/boarding](http://www.esms.org.uk/boarding)

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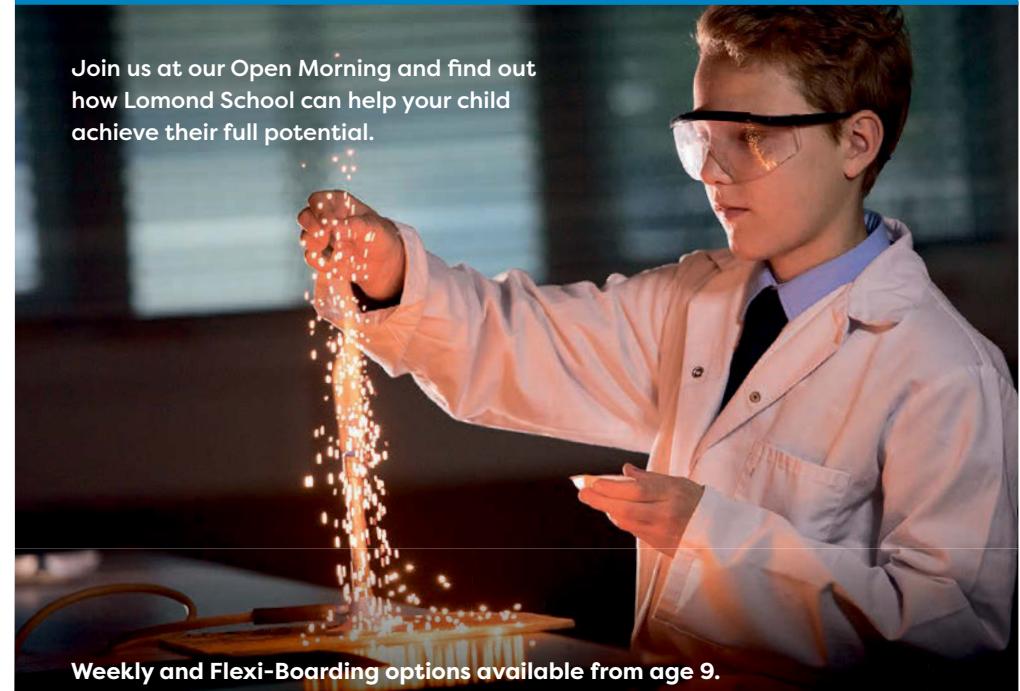
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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Sunshine brings out Cowal crowds

The sun shone for Cowal Gathering Saturday, writes Colin Cameron.

A damp Thursday and Friday at the famous Dunoon event were forgotten and thousands of people from across the world gathered to make sure Saturday was a day to remember.

Throughout the afternoon some of the world's hottest traditional music bands entertained the crowds in the now legendary Ceilidh Tent.

Crowds watched as more than 1,000 competitors fought for Cowal silverware. Dancers, pipers, heavy athletes and runners were joined by entertainers, including cyclists, gymnasts and musicians to ensure the gathering's crowds were wowed from early morning.

A perennial favourite at Cowal are the pipe band competitions.

Grade 4B Champion of Champions



Mid Argyll Pipe Band always enjoy their trips round the corner to Dunoon, and this year was no exception.

Mid Argyll rounded off a highly



successful season with a second place, just behind Rothesay and District. To complete a good Grade 4B day for Argyll and Bute, Dunoon Argyll came fifth.

Oban High School Pipe Band dominated the Juvenile and Novice Juvenile competitions, winning them both.

In their first competitive outing of the season, local favourites Dunoon

Grammar School belied their inexperience and came fifth among the Novice B bands.

Johnstone Pipe held off the challenge of Lomond and Clyde to be crowned winners of the Grade 1 Cowal championships.

Champion adult drum major was Campbell Gillies of Rothesay and District Pipe Band.

Some of the trophy winners in the

2018 Cowal Highland Gathering:  
In the Argyllshire Highland Dancing competitions, top honours went to Linzi Cameron from Campbeltown triumphing in the 16 years and over.

Highland dancer Eva MacColl, 12, from Appin, was awarded fourth place overall. Eva is a S1 pupil at Oban High School and attends the Appin School of Dance.

This year the gathering welcomed a record 768 dancers from as far afield as Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and the USA pitting their skills against the best the UK has to offer.

The adult world champion was Marielle Lesperance from Nova Scotia, followed by Rebecca Thow from Alberta and Siobhan Watt from Glasgow.

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## Brighton's The Kooks are gig-ready for Oban date

Scottish fans of The Kooks have got a one-off chance to see them this side of the border – in Oban.

As well as performing at the Corran Halls, the Brighton quartet has lined up four other gigs in Belfast, London, Middlesbrough and Bexhill-on-Sea after the release of their fifth album Let's Go Sunshine, which came out on August 31.

The Kooks have also played at this year's Reading and Leeds Festivals on the main stage.

With a recent sell-out UK arena tour still echoing in their ears and more than one billion streams under their belts, The Kooks are out to claim their place in the Great British Songbook with 'Let's Go Sunshine'.

The Oban gig is on Saturday September 8. The Corran Halls Box office is on 01631 567333 or go to [liveargyll.co.uk/halls/corran-halls-oban](http://liveargyll.co.uk/halls/corran-halls-oban) to book.

## Glasgow Letter

ROBERT ROBERTSON

[robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk)



Now that the summer is over, and the usual haunts in Glasgow begin to get busier again as lots of Highlanders and islanders (particularly students) return after spending a few weeks back up the road, the calendar down here in Glasgow begins to get busier with lots of interesting events for Gaels in the city. Here are a few in the coming weeks...

### Ceòl's Craic to host film screening

On Wednesday September 19, Ceòl's Craic is screening a film called Agus a-nochd... the entertainers! (And tonight...the entertainers!) as part of their club film series. This will take place in the Community Central Hall (292-316 Maryhill Road).

The evening begins at 6.30pm and is free entry. Join Gaelic tutor Janet Evans for a learners' conversation group before the film screening at 7.15pm. This screening is a fascinating documentary

investigating the lives of a diverse group of musicians who perform in bars and clubs throughout Scotland.

### A night of Gaelic and Americana

For this year's Oidhche Americana, on Saturday September 22, Ceòl's Craic has decamped Way Out West to Webster's Theatre on Great Western Road.

Oidhche Americana is a celebration of the historic links between traditional Gaelic song and Americana music.

Iain MacKay has long been celebrated as one of the finest traditional singers on the Gaelic scene. This year's Oidhche Americana sees him make an eagerly-awaited return to the Glasgow stage accompanied by long-time musical collaborators Alex Murdo MacLeod (accordion) and Charlie MacLeod (guitar).

Willie Campbell is widely regarded as one of Scotland's finest singer-songwriters and



is surely one of our most prolific and hard-working artists. Willie's deep-rooted love of Americana and Country music informs many of his compositions and is especially apparent on recent album releases.

Ainsley Hamill is best known as vocalist with traditional folk band Barluath but for this event she'll be joining

Iain MacKay  
Willie Campbell  
Ainsley Hamill  
Bensider

Disathairne 22 Sultain 2018  
Saturday 22 September 2018  
7.30f gu amach  
7.30pm till late!  
Tioigaldean £14 / £12  
Webster's Theatre  
416 Great Western Road,  
Glaschu, 0141 357 4000  
[info@ceolscaic.org](mailto:info@ceolscaic.org)  
[www.ceolscaic.org](http://www.ceolscaic.org)

Willie Campbell on stage to provide some high, lonesome, Country-style harmonies.

Bensider was originally intended to be a solo project by singer-songwriter Graham MacIver but over time it has developed into a collective of talented musicians who provide an exhilarating musical backdrop to Graham's songs. Much of his original material

is inspired by his upbringing on the Isle of Lewis.

Renowned broadcaster John Carmichael is the MC for the evening. Doors open at 7.15pm and are £14 or £12 for concessions.

### Clydebank Highlanders

Clydebank and District Highland Association are having their first ceilidh of the new session on Friday September 14 in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, at 7.30pm.

Chairman for the evening will be Neil Murray, singers are Calum Ross and his daughter Fiona as well as Frank McCamley and Jackie Gibson.

Ryan Young will play some fiddle tunes and the accompanist for the evening is Kirsteen Grant. Robert Wood is the piper.

Admission at the door is £8 which includes tea, coffee, and home baking. All welcome.

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## Eye to eye with John Wallace

# Everyone is Different

One of the joys of being an optometrist is getting to meet people face to face. Perhaps I am now "old school" but I prefer continuity of care and actually speaking directly to someone who is familiar with my history and has helped manage any healthcare requirements I might have. I try, as a practicing optometrist, to offer my patients the same level of care.

One of the difficulties of operating in the NHS environment is the limited time available to each patient. It is good to talk but it is not always possible spend the required time with a patient at the first consultation. Occasionally it is possible to deal with a patient in only a few minutes. More typically, as the population ages, healthcare needs increase and consultation time needed increases. The same is true of vision problems. We all have elderly relatives who have increasing health and vision problems.

When I started in practice my role was simply to test eyes for glasses. If someone could not see well I was obliged to send the patient to their GP who had

the final say if a patient would benefit from referral to an ophthalmologist. How things have changed. Today, as an optometrist, my role is assessing the entire vision system. Not just what we see, but how we see it and why we see what we do. Optometrists now advise GPs on eye health matters and GPs refer patients to us for our opinion.

Every morning when I step into my practice the only certainty is today will be different from yesterday. Different patients with different vision problems and vision needs and, invariably, someone with a challenging eye health problem which will require much more time and more resources than the NHS are prepared to fund.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP  
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# Three exciting exhibitions at Resipole Studios this autumn

Resipole Studios is delighted to present *Genre Scenes*, a collection of works by Dundee-based artist Gavin Young. Described as 'bringing Breughel to the streets of suburbia' by Duncan MacMillan in *The Scotsman*, Gavin's work provides a fascinating snapshot of everyday life in Scotland. This solo exhibition showcases pieces created with the aid of a camera obscura – a device that both captivates and frustrates the artist in equal measure. Whilst deeming the device 'almost unworkable', it is the warm colours and soft edges produced by the camera that has captured the imagination of the artist and influenced his work.

As part of the exhibition, the gallery will have a working camera obscura for visitors to try out for themselves. More can be found out about Gavin's experiments with the device in Resipole Studios' very own blog.

*Emergence*, in the red gallery, is an exciting and diverse group show of works by young Scottish artists Rebecca Holloway, Heather McNab, Camassia Bruce and Imogen Alabaster, each of whom is based on the east coast of Scotland.

This collection of work celebrates and explores connections to both the self and to the landscape and environment, and promises to be an interesting insight into fresh perspectives in contemporary Scottish art.

In its autumn show, exhibiting in the main and upper galleries, Resipole Studios presents a selection of new works by some of its regular artists such as Andrew Squire, Ruth O'Dell, David Greenall, Alan Hayman, Joyce Gunn Cairns MBE, and Jan Gardner.

For more information on current exhibitions, along with further artwork and information on artists, please visit their website at [www.resipolestudios.co.uk](http://www.resipolestudios.co.uk).



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**Friday PM  
THE CAMANS**

**Sat afternoon  
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Sat PM  
DR HIP & THE BLUES  
OPERATION**

**SATURDAY  
MID ARGYLL PIPE BAND**

**COFFEE MORNING  
TEMPLARS HALL  
SATURDAY  
10AM-12noon**



**ANCHOR HOTEL**

**Friday 9pm till late  
Saturday 9pm till late**

**TWO BOB ROCKET**

**ISLAY FRIGATE  
HOTEL**

**Friday 10pm till close  
MICHELLE FROM THE FOLD**

**Sat afternoon  
unconfirmed  
Sat PM  
CHERRY VALENTINE**

**SUNDAY  
LOCH FYNE PIPE BAND**



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# WHAT'S ON

## IN OBAN

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Diary [bid4oban.co.uk](http://bid4oban.co.uk)

### Thursday 6th September

**Oban Health Walk**  
Oban Congregational Church  
Hall. 10am - 11.30am



**Oban Walking Tours**  
Oban, i-centre. 2.00pm - 3.30pm

**Preventing Dementia**  
The Corran Halls Oban  
7.30pm - 9.00pm

**Live Music & Entertainment @  
Markie Dans**  
FREE JUKEBOX EVERY  
THURSDAY

**Friday 7th September**  
**Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading**  
Glencruitten Church Hall  
All Day

**Friendship Club Meet Up**  
The Rockfield Centre  
2.00pm - 4.00pm

**Scratch Choir - Back For Good**  
The Rockfield Centre  
8.00pm - 10.00pm

**Live Music & Entertainment @  
Markie Dans**  
The Fold. Free entry. Open till  
2am

**Live Music & Entertainment @  
The Lorne Bar Oban**  
From 9pm. Free Entry

### Saturday 8th September

**Oban Dance Academy - Cheerleading**  
Glencruitten Church Hall  
All Day

**Oban Walking Tours**  
Oban, i-centre  
10am - 11.30am. 2.00pm  
- 3.30pm

**Master Builders Lego Club**  
The Rockfield Centre  
10.00am - 12.00pm

**Slow Traditional Music Session**  
The Rockfield Centre  
2.00pm - 4.00pm

Events may charge. Please visit  
[www.obanwhatson.co.uk](http://www.obanwhatson.co.uk) for more details.

To list your event, please call **01631 568000**



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# Oban-based author shortlisted for top Scottish award

An Oban-based author is celebrating this week after one of his recent picture books was shortlisted for the Bookbug Picture Book Prize 2019.

Alan Windram's picture book One Button Benny, which is illustrated by Chloe Holwill-Hunter, is a wonderful story about heroes and the unlikely places you find them. The fun tale for three-to six-year-olds sees loveable robot Benny becoming a surprising hero when the hairy, scary collectors try to take over his planet.

The shortlist for the 2019 Bookbug Picture Book Prize was announced last week, with the vote opening to schools and the public.

One Button Benny is one of three picture books shortlisted for the third Bookbug Picture Book Prize. The award was established to celebrate the most popular picture books by Scottish authors and illustrators, and is run by Scottish Book Trust, with support from Browns Books for Students.

Children across the country can vote for the winner by submitting a class vote online or at home, via the Scottish Book Trust website.

The Bookbug Picture Book Prize 2019 shortlist is:

One Button Benny by Alan Windram, illustrated by Chloe Holwill-Hunter (Little Door Books)

Eric Makes a Splash by Emily MacKenzie (Bloomsbury)

I am Bat by Morag Hood



(Two Hoots Books)

A free copy of all three shortlisted books will be given to every Primary 1 child during Book Week Scotland (November 19 - December 25), in the Bookbug P1 Family Bag, with the winning book announced in an exclusive video to all registered groups on January 16 2019.

Alan said: 'I am absolutely thrilled that One Button Benny has been shortlisted for the Bookbug Picture Book Prize.'

I had such fun working with Chloe Holwill-Hunter as she brought Benny to life with her amazing illustrations.

'I hope that everyone enjoys reading the book as much as we enjoyed creating it. Like Benny the robot, I am literally over the moon.'

One Button Benny is published by Oban-based Little Door Books ([www.littledoorsbooks.co.uk](http://www.littledoorsbooks.co.uk)). Director Susan Northey said: 'I am delighted for Alan and Chloe that their wonderful book One Button Benny has been shortlisted for the Scottish Book Trust's 2019 Bookbug Picture Book Prize.'

As a small independent publisher we work hard to create high-quality picture books that reflect the first-

class writing talent of our authors, and also showcase young and little-known illustrating talent, with the ultimate aim of producing picture books that children will love.'

'To be shortlisted for such a prestigious prize is a real honour.'

Marc Lambert, CEO of Scottish Book Trust, said: 'The Bookbug Picture Book Prize highlights some of the finest children's books in Scotland. We are delighted to work with Browns Books for Students to make this award possible and celebrate the wonderful authors and illustrators working in the picture book industry.'

'We are sure children will love reading these stories and we look forward to finding out which is their favourite.'

Alan Bett, Literature Officer at Creative Scotland, said: 'We would like to congratulate the authors and illustrators of the three books shortlisted for the Bookbug Picture Book Prize. These might be some of the first works of fiction young readers enjoy for themselves, and an early step in a lifetime's love of books.'

Creative Scotland is delighted to support this initiative, through Scottish Book Trust, which lets the readers themselves vote for the winner.'

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## Far, Far From Ypres – masterful production of one man's war

Review by Campbell Cameron, Oban FM

'A horrific story – illustrated by magnificent songs,' is how Ian McCalman describes Far, Far from Ypres which played the Corran Halls, Oban last week as part of a Highland tour that took the multi-star cast to Portree and Ullapool.

This was the story of Private MacDonald, one man's war 100 years ago, and has become a passion that McCalman has curated since its inception way back in 2010 when Ian Green of Greentrax records asked if he would become involved in the recording project.

The former McCalman's Folk Trio leader created the show with a cast of traditional music luminaries for a Greentrax celebration in Edinburgh some years ago.

Well ahead of the current 100-year commemoration of 'The Great War to end all wars' and it is now on tour through Scotland.

Radio Scotland legend Iain

Anderson is the voice who narrates the story and introduces the songs of the time to illustrate the early jingoistic high-spirited nature of recruitment which quickly turned to horrific reality of battle in the trenches that saw tens of thousands die in the first days.

The story then reflects the growing resignation to the carnage that ensued and the black humour that the troops fell back on. This was well illustrated in the Wipers Times, a trench newspaper produced in dire circumstances and heavily opposed by the top brass, but a vent for the cynicism of the troops and their life in the trenches.

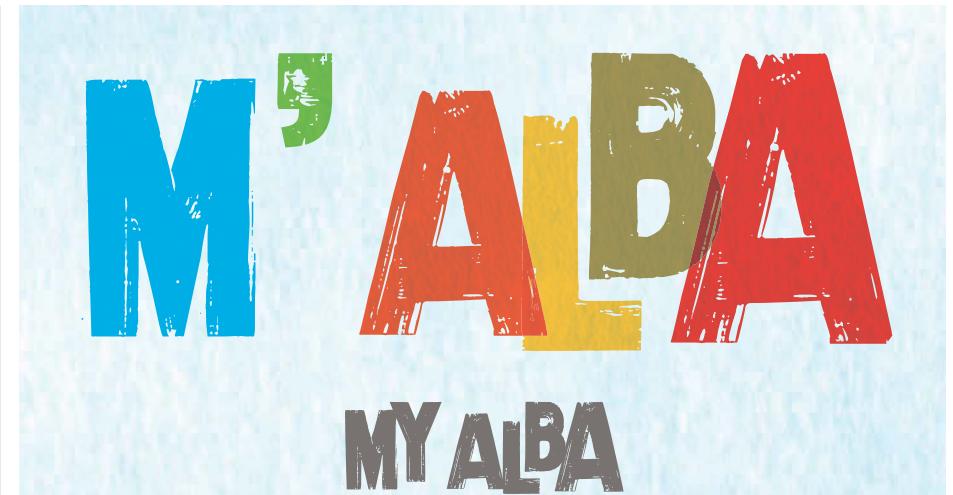
Throughout the show the music is driven by McCalman's percussive guitar playing and was happy, sad, melancholic, and triumphant at times reflecting all the stages of wartime. The vocals were heart rending and uplifting as the story progressed

with Barbara Dixon, Stephen Quigg and Mairi MacInnes among the stars of the show.

But all 25 musicians on stage played their brilliant part in the whole – the chorus was spine tingling. The range of emotions that moving pictures, music and song can create is masterfully delivered and one is left wondering whether we will ever learn.

Our man made it through the hell of war – but he fell to Spanish Flu on his return as the pandemic ranged worldwide killing 50 million people, more than double the war deaths. The unimaginable tragedy is well told in a show that deserves your attention the closer we get to November 2018 and the 100th Armistice day.

Far, Far from Ypres plays Dundee, Stirling, Inverness and Dumfries through October culminating in an Armistice Day showing in Edinburgh's Usher hall on Sunday November 11.



### DIARDAOIN 06 AN T-SULTAIN THURSDAY 06 SEPTEMBER

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.00 Súigh an Eòrna (rpt)  
19.26 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
19.30 Beul Chainnt (rpt)  
20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 Highland Midwives: Mnathan-Glùine (rpt)  
21.00 Rocky Ros Muc (rpt)  
22.30 **ÚR | NEW:** Ameireaga air Film  
23.15 Torcail's Guide to Being a Gael: Deoch (rpt)  
23.30 Fèis Chiùil Thiriodh – The Levellers (rpt)

### DIHAOINE 07 AN T-SULTAIN FRIDAY 07 SEPTEMBER

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
18.35 Machair (rpt)  
19.00 An Là – News  
19.25 **ÚR | NEW:** SWPL – Forfar Hibernian  
21.30 Gaisgich na Stoirmé (rpt)  
22.00 Hinterland 53 (rpt)  
23.25 Belladrum 2017: Tigerstyle (rpt)

### DISATHAIRNE 08 AN T-SULTAIN SATURDAY 08 SEPTEMBER

- 16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
20.00 Machair (rpt)  
20.25 Fraoch Bay (rpt)  
20.30 Cuimhneachan (rpt)  
21.00 **ÚR | NEW:** Tatu Rioghaill Dhùn Èideann 2018  
22.40 ArDhuain (rpt)  
23.00 Ameireaga air Film (rpt)  
23.45 Belladrum 2016: Cridhe Tartan – C. Duncan (rpt)  
24.00 Gun Sgot? (rpt)

### DIMÀIRT 11 AN T-SULTAIN TUESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

- 17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming  
19.05 Súigh an Eòrna (rpt)  
19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt)  
19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt)  
20.00 An Là – News  
20.30 Highland Midwives: Mnathan-Glùine (rpt)  
21.00 Benny (rpt)  
22.00 Belladrum 2017: Sister Sledge (rpt)  
22.30 **ÚR | NEW:** Ameireaga air Film (rpt)  
23.15 Piobairean Bhoirnis (rpt)  
23.30 Fèis Chiùil Thiriodh (rpt)



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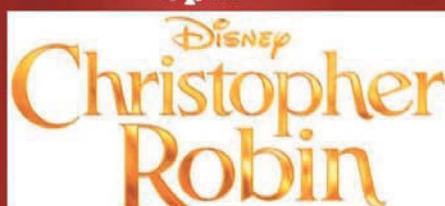
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**MONDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 9.00 Monday Morning with Stephen, 11.00 Ian Simmonds on Monday, 17.00 Drivetime, 19.00 Rosie's Highland Fling with Rosie Macoll, 20.00 John McLuckie's Show, 21.00 David Cullen show, 23.00 Station close down

**TUESDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 10.00 Ken Hunter's Tuesday Morning, 13.00 Macky on FM, 17.00 Drivetime Jim Lynch, 19.00 Highest Praise - Stuart Chalmers, 20.00 Archie Darlings's Mix, 22.00 Clyde 2

**WEDNESDAY:** 08.00 AM on FM, 08.10 Breakfast Show, 09.00 Sound Scottish Repeat, 10.00 Comfort Zone, Doug Carmichael, 11.00 Comfort Zone, 12.00 Comfort Zone, 17.00 Drivetime with Camp-

bell, 19.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll - Len + Ken, 20.00 Country Meets Rock & Roll, 21.00 Gordon's Grooves with Gordon Macintyre

**THURSDAY:** 08.00 - 11.00 Breakfast with Andy and Sarah, 11.00 Molly's Mix with Molly Black, 13.00 Molly's Mix, 15.00 Drivetime with Stephen, 17.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 18.00 Drivetime with Stephen McPhee, 19.00 Christines Collection, 20.00 Christine's CD Collection, 21.00 Ann's Ceilidh, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight, 11.00 Margo Till Midnight

**FRIDAY:** 08.00 Breakfast Show with Laura, 10.00 Teeny and Tiny, 17.00 Drive Show with Jim Lynch, 17.30 Drive Show, 18.45 Sports View, 19.00 Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig,

20.00 Lewis Bingham, 21.00 Peter Rainnie

**SATURDAY:** 08.00 Breakfast Show with Stephen 10.00 Sat Morning Live, 11.00 Saturday Morning, 12.00 Saturday Morning Live with Linda Crowsher, 12.03 Sat Morning Live, 12.05 Saturday Morning Live, 13.30 Clyde, 18.00 Sports View - Dream Team, 19.00 Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling, 20.00 Dave Lewis, 22.00 Margo Till Midnight

**SUNDAY:** 09.00 Sunday Morning With Breeze, 10.00 Sunday Morning, 11.00 Sunday Brunch With Archie, 12.00 Sunday Brunch, 16.30 Archie Darling, 18.00 Ken's Friends - Ken Hunter, 19.00 New Country Show - David Entwhistle, 21.00 Drum & Bass - Graham Scott, 23.00 Station Close Down

## Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (12A)

It's been four years since theme park and luxury resort Jurassic World was destroyed by dinosaurs out of containment. Isla Nublar now sits abandoned by humans while the surviving dinosaurs fend for themselves in the jungles.

When the island's dormant volcano begins roaring to life, Owen (Chris Pratt) and Claire (Bryce Dallas Howard) mount a campaign to rescue the remaining dinosaurs from this extinction-level event. Owen is driven to find Blue, his lead raptor who's still missing in the wild, and Claire has grown a respect for these creatures she now makes her mission. Arriving on the unstable island as lava begins raining down, their expedition uncovers a conspiracy that could return the entire planet to a perilous order not seen since prehistoric times.

'A new instalment steeped in tightly-wound tension' - Empire.

'Rip-roaring highly entertaining sequel' - The Independent.

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Jura Thu 13 September  
Port Ellen Fri 14 - Sun 16 September

**Incredibles 2** (PG) 125 mins  
10/09 at 5.30pm, 13/09 at 5.30pm, 14/09 at 5.30pm, 15/09 at 2pm

**Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again** (PG) 114 mins  
10/09 at 8.30pm, 13/09 at 8.30pm, 14/09 at 8.30pm, 15/09 at 5.30pm, 16/09 at 2pm

**Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom** (12A) 128 mins

11/09 at 5.30pm

**Mission: Impossible - Fallout** (12A) 147 mins

11/09 at 8.30pm

**Films We Love: Monsieur Hulot's Holiday** (U) 89 mins  
(£5/£3) French with English Subtitles "In every scene Tati delights and surprises" Screen Machine team 16/09 at 5.30pm

**Mary Shelley** (12A) 120 mins

"intelligent, probing well-acted biopic with a strong feminist slant" Independent 16/09 at 8.30pm

Before **Mamma Mia** we will screen a free photo presentation of work called **Brian Griffin: POP** which has been produced in collaboration with Street Level Photoworks Glasgow. Please arrive promptly to be sure of catching it.

Book at: [www.screenmachine.co.uk](http://www.screenmachine.co.uk). Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. Cash only, no cards. £7.50 Adults. £5.50 concs.



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# AmeriCeilidh gig for Bookends

Bookends has bagged itself a foot stomin' gig to get festival-goers up dancing, writes Kathie Griffiths.

A lively night with The Hollow Mountain String Band is set for Friday September 28 from 8pm at Benderloch's Victory Hall. The band will perform its blend of sound bridging the gap between Scottish and Americana music. Revellers can expect a mix of country, old time, honky tonk, Celtic traditional and western swing.

The gig comes at almost the half-way point of the two-week festival which starts on September 22, bringing a host of authors and crowds of visitors to Benderloch. Tickets are being snapped up for all the events, so booking is advised.

Living with Lyme disease, a bacterial infection that can be spread to humans by infected ticks, spurred author Morvern-May MacCallum to

The Hollow Mountain String Band will play Bookends.



write. Using her own difficult situation she wrote Finding Joy, a moving tale about 16-year-old Joyce who is torn from the life she loves. Two years of ill-health pass as she and her family struggle with a dizzying array of symptoms and a fight for diagnosis in the hope of recovery.

Morvern-May will be a guest at Bookends' Victory Hall home on Sunday September 23 at 2pm. She will also be visiting Oban High School's English Department the next day as part of the festival's outreach programme talking to young people about writing

from personal experience and will be raising awareness of Lyme Disease.

Taynuilt-born poet, novelist and TV scriptwriter Lorn MacIntyre is another author who will be appearing at the festival. On Saturday September 29 he will be talking about his book The Leaper. This event at the Victory Hall, starts at 2pm. MacIntyre's work records and laments the disappearance of a traditional way of life, with accompanying decline in the Gaelic language and the exploitation of the environment. In The Leaper, Seumas Macdonald is

an outsider, not only because he lives on an isolated primitive croft but also because he is the only child in the school to speak Gaelic, apart from his disturbed sister. He is also the favourite of MacCallum the headmaster, which leads to the boy being bullied in the playground.

MacCallum comes in his boat for ceilidhs with the Macdonald family, to preserve the evocative Gaelic names of birds and flowers, and to teach Seumas to read and write what the headmaster calls 'the language of Eden' which, like the natural world, is under threat.

Anyone submitting a chapter, poem, article or a short story of 2,000 words max to Bookends' writer in residence Kenneth Steven should email it to info@kennethsteven.co.uk by Monday September 17 to get a feedback session with him on Monday September 24.

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

If you would like to advertise in the Oban Times Community Noticeboard please call 01631 568000



## Die Cast Model Show Arts & Crafts Sale

Victory Hall, Benderloch  
Saturday 8th September 10am - 5pm  
Sunday 9th September 10am - 4pm  
Adults £2. Children £1  
in aid of Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance. scaa.org.uk  
SCO41845

# Islay Book Festival

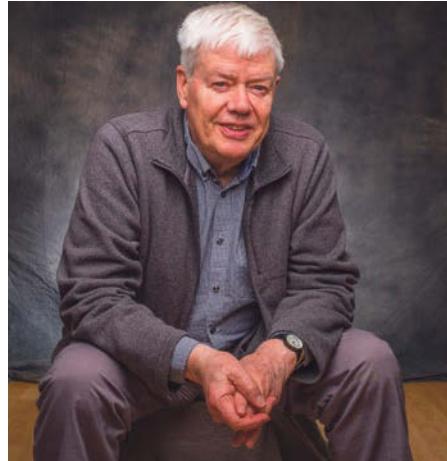
Islay Book Festival celebrates its 11th festival on September 27-30 in its most ambitious festival to date.

Nineteen authors will offer a range of events for adults and children of all ages in an exciting programme that includes storytelling, poetry, island fiction, a tartan cat, and much more. The Scottish Book Trust will also be filming the festival.

The star-studded line-up includes Bernard MacLaverty, who will discuss how his serious writing started – in a bungalow in Bowmore.

Crime writer Lin Anderson will showcase her latest thriller with soil forensics expert Lorna Dawson. Reflections on the 100th anniversary of the First World War, and its local impact on Islay and Jura, will be headed up by prolific author-historian Trevor Royle and award-winning filmmaker Les Wilson.

Gaelic children's author and illustrator Catriona Black will be there. Her exhibition, Forradh: Sly Cooking, is currently on display at Islay's Gaelic College.



Bernard MacLaverty. Photograph: Robert Burns

Ian Stephen, Malachy Tallack, Donald S Murray and Janis Mackay are among the other well-known authors making their way to this year's festival.

## Crossword

### LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION

### Down

- Material formerly used to fireproof buildings (8)
- Lively dance (5)
- Fish hawk (6)
- Used to attract the attention of another in a flirty way (4-8)
- Paste (7)
- Whirl (4)
- Senior officer of the US army (5,2,5)
- Scarecrow (8)
- Two egg-shaped masses in the brain (7)
- Inhabits a wood (6)
- Take up again (5)
- A long time (4)

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# THE BRIDE GUIDE

## Highland Romance

With a gorgeous natural backdrop and a surfeit of fairytale venues, the West Highlands is a renowned wedding destination for Scottish couples, as well as those coming from around the world. A wedding may be the biggest event a couple will ever organise, so nothing should be left to chance. The Autumn Wedding Guide can help the bride and groom plan their perfect day, and a few tips will help make the process even smoother. With that in mind, here is The Oban Times' five steps to help organise the big day with the minimum amount of stress.

**1.** Decide on a date. Speak to the celebrant first, whether a minister or a member of the council office, and get the date inked in before making any other plans. Then the venue can be booked.

**2.** Compromise is an essential part of the wedding planning. This may be the bride's day, but the groom can be involved as well. He may not be interested in choosing colours, the cake or the bridesmaids' dresses, and, in fact,

he may not even be concerned about the details – all he is thinking about is how happy his blushing bride will be. But by asking him to make some important decisions, such as setting a budget, choosing groomsmen's outfits, sourcing rings

and organising the honeymoon, he gets to put in his two pence-worth. Our advertisers can help make decisions easier, taking some of the strain off the couple.

**3.** Set a realistic budget. Weddings can be expensive, so make a priority list and be ready to compromise. And remember, years from now, everyone will remember the love and the fun, not whether they ate the most costly cake or drank the finest champagne. If the couple can find ways to cut some costs, they can afford to splurge on the items most important to them, whether it is the music, the food or the venue.

**4.** Make a plan. By keeping a 'to do' list – even a binder – and planning well ahead, the busy couple can stay organised and keep on top of tasks. Keep records and receipts of everything, from discussions with the venue manager and caterer to fabric swatches.

**5.** Divide and conquer. Think about the skills of people in the wedding party and family and ask them to be involved. Does Aunt Mary have mad calligraphy skills? Have her address the invitations. Is the bridesmaid a keen baker? Ask if she can make the cake. And for everything else, the friendly and knowledgeable Oban Times advertisers have all the bases covered – it's what they do.

Enjoy the day. After months of stressful planning, by the time the wedding day arrives, the bride and groom can be at the end of their tether. But if they let the professionals do their jobs and allow family and friends to pamper and assist in the details, the stressed out couple can transform into the happy couple.

**Just relax,  
smile and enjoy!**



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# Let us paint a positive picture of our farming

**Martin Kennedy,**  
NFUS vice-president

We are all now fully aware of the implications of the drought conditions we have just come through.

Most livestock farmers are having to look at how they will get through the coming winter. It may be by having a ration planned out early enough or maybe looking at alternative sources of bedding and fodder to supplement what's grown on the farm.

Although many arable farmers are switching off the choppers on their combines, which is very much appreciated, there is still a real concern that supplies will be extremely tight going into the coming

winter. One way or another, the industry will pull together and get through this.

I've always been an optimist and firmly believe that if you go into something with a positive attitude, you have far more chance of getting the desired outcome. That's why at every opportunity I'll try to look at the positive side of our industry.

We, as farmers, are far too good at talking our own industry down and that doesn't help as pessimism can spread much quicker than optimism.

It's a bit like a news story: every time there's a disaster, it makes the headlines, everyone hears about it and everyone talks about it.

Unfortunately, there's not enough interest when things are going well.

Take, for example, our beef price. It is widely recognised as being the most expensive beef in the world – albeit the associated costs are extremely high. That's a fantastic story to tell but it won't sell in the tabloids.

Our sheep farming, which goes on in most of our hills, is vital to addressing climate change, with all the good credentials of sheep associated with sustainability, not just for the sheep sector but the wider benefits when it comes to the whole rural economy. All livestock that graze grass and poorer forage keep our hillsides in a very good

carbon sequestering state. If that livestock was withdrawn, the rank vegetation that would take over would simply die back and release carbon into our atmosphere, adding to our challenge of keeping our planet in a good sustainable state.

Scotland is in pole position when it comes to carbon capture. Admittedly, our rainfall helps us, but the combination of our green pastures and hills and the livestock that grazes them in a sustainable manner that encourages all other forms of biodiversity is something we should be shouting about from the rooftops.

We need to start telling the good news. There's plenty of it.

## John triumphs at Mull and Morvern Sheepdog Trial

Mull and Morvern Sheepdog Trial was held on Thursday August 23 at Gruline Fields, Knock Farm, on Mull.

Judge Neil MacEachern from Dunoon assessed an entry of 27 dogs.

The running was on Blackface hoggs in packets of four. They were manageable in general but proved difficult for the last few handlers in both the morning and afternoon sessions, with the sheep standing up to the dogs.

They proved easier to pen than in previous years, which meant there were more completed runs than usual.

It was a good day for Bens, with three in the prize money. Results were as follows.

Open: 1. John MacKillop (Fort Augustus), Ben, 90 of 100; 2. James Shanks (Ardtornish) Kim, 84; 3. Andrew Hughson (Shetland), Faye, 81; 4. Carol Mellin (Oakworth, Yorkshire), Moor Lodge Ben, 76; 5. Angie MacDiarmid (Argyll), Sal, 75; 6. Lisa Gast (Bute), Ben, 75. Local: 1. James Shanks; 2. Enid Moore (Mull) Bea; 3. Enid Moore, Cap. Shepherds Cup: John MacKillop. Two-dog aggregate, John MacKillop. Best pen: Enid Moore.



John MacKillop, from Fort Augustus, being presented with his trophy as winner of the Mull and Morvern Sheepdog Trial 2018.

## Around the markets

Oban – United Auctions on Tuesday August 28 sold 3,224 lambs and sheep at their third sale held within Oban Livestock Centre. A good attendance of buyers were present and all stock was cleared as levels above sellers' expectations. Lambs sold to £68 for Texel crosses from Park Farm, Kilniver and averaged £46.39 per head, recording a rise of £2.58 on the corresponding sale last year. Principal lots and prices:

Lambs:  
SUFFx: £67.50 – No 3 Killean: £61.50 – Achnacree Beag: £60.50 – Frackersaig.

TEXx: £68.00 – Park Farm: £67.00 – 58 Tangasdale: £65.00 – 4 Balure: £64.00 – Barcaldine H

F: £62.00 – Park Farm: £61.50 – Baleveolan and 14 Kilvaree: £60.50 – Baligarve: £60.00 – Bridgend and Balnagown.

CHEV: £63.00 – 85 Borve, Barra: £62.00 – Drumfingal: £57.50 – Ballard, Coll: £56.50 – Glenmore, Ardnahurian.

CROSS: £41.00 – Caddleton Farm. MULE: £56.00 – Frackersaig. BF: £39.00 – Achinduin.

Ewes:  
SUFF: £80.00 – Barcaldine HF

TEXx: £74.00 and £72.00 – Barcaldine HF: £71.00 – Croft 2, Fanmore.

CHEV: £48.00 – Ballard, Coll. BF: £35.00 – Scammadale.

Lochmaddy – Dingwall and Highland Marts on Monday August 27 sold 2,614 store lambs. Lambs (2,614) averaged £48.70 and sold to £86 gross for a Texel lamb from Druim Torrach, 17 Hougharry.

Prize list:  
Cheviot lambs – 1 A MacSween, 1a Nunton, £82; 2 A MacPherson, 24 Liniclate, £80.

Suffolk cross lambs – 1 J

Macaulay, 20 Balemore, £74; 2 J A MacDonald, 7 Grenitote, £63.50. Continental cross lambs – 1 A MacLellan, Druim Torrach, £73; 2 H MacDonald, 1 Knockline, £62.

Overall champion pen – A MacSween, 1a Nunton (Cheviot). Reserve champion pen – J Macaulay, 20 Balemore (Suffolk).

Other leading prices per head:  
Lambs:  
Chev – 1a Nunton, Balivanich, £82, 24 Liniclate, Benbecula, £80, 12 Liniclate, Benbecula, £64; SuffX – 20 Balemore, Bayhead, £74, Druim Torrach and 15

Tigharry, Lochmaddy, £68, 7 Grenitote, Sollas, £63.50; Tex – Druim Torrach, £73.50; TexX – Dunskeillar, Sollas, £67, 3

Claddach Kirkibost, Lochmaddy, £64, 1 Knockline, Bayhead, £62; Cross – Trumisgarry, Lochmaddy, £61.50, 18 Illeray, Baleshare, £57; BeltX – 15 Liniclate, Benbecula, and 14 Tuzo Close, Balivanich, £57; CharX – The Millcroft, Claddach Kyles, £54.

Portree – Dingwall and Highland Marts on Monday August 20 sold 3,300 store lambs and ewes.

Lambs (2,973) averaged £36.87 and sold to £69.50 for a pen of Cheviot lambs from 4 Edinbane, Portree and a pen of Texel cross lambs from Corriebheinn, Achachork, Portree.

The lamb average showed a decrease of £4.34 on the corresponding sale last year due to smaller lambs being the most difficult to sell.

Feeding sheep (327) sold to £70 for a pen of Suffolk ewes from 35 Mains Bernisdale, Portree.

Other leading prices per head:  
Chev – Strathmore, Staffin, £66, 8 Digg, Staffin, £60, 9 Carbostmore, Carbost, £59.

TexX – 1 Lynton, Staffin, £60.50, Strathmore, Staffin £55.50, Glendale Estate, Glendale, £53.50.

BeltX – 8, 14 and 15 Struanmore, Struan, £59, 20 Borreraig, Dunvegan, £56, 8 Sconser, Sconser, £49.

SuffX – 28 Stenscholl, Staffin, £65.50, Tigh Gael, Portree, £55, 20 Borve, Skeabost Bridge, £54.

Cross – 4 Edinbane, Portree, £54.50, 17 Garafed, Portree, £52.50, 1 Waterstein, Glendale, £52.

BF – 2 Vatten, Dunvegan, £51, 2 Marrishadder, Staffin, £50.50, 28 Fiscovaig, Carbost, £48.50.

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## LATEST COMMERCIAL PROPERTY MARKET REPORT SHOWS CHANGING PICTURE

The latest analysis of commercial property sales across Scotland by the Scottish Property Federation (SPF) reflects a shift in fortunes for the nation's major cities over the three months from April to June 2018.

For the second successive quarter, activity in Aberdeen exceeded that in both Edinburgh and Glasgow. Total sales values in the Granite City was £123m and while this figure is 26 per cent less than the total from the previous quarter, it is 68 per cent greater than Q2 2017.

By comparison, in Edinburgh and Glasgow sales activity was 'subdued'. The total value sales in the Scottish capital in Q2 2018 was £122m. This is 19 per cent down on the previous quarter and is also 46 per cent down on Q2 2017. There were 110 commercial property sales in Edinburgh during this time.

In Glasgow, there were 129 commercial sales, totalling £104m. The value of commercial sales in Glasgow rose eight per cent compared to Q1 2018, but was down 42 per cent

on the same quarter in 2017.

Nationally, total sales values were down 29 per cent on Q1 at £684m (13 per cent down on the previous year), although the number of transactions rose from 1,006 in Q1 to 1,095 in Q2 (a rise of nine per cent). It is the first fall in total sales values since Q3 2017 and one of the main contributing factors is that there were a lower number of high value sales.

The figures were collated using data from Registers of Scotland.

David Melhuish, direc-

tor of Scottish Property Federation, said: 'Our analysis of Q2 commercial sales figures shows an interesting picture emerging in the cities. Aberdeen continued to have marginally higher sales than both Edinburgh and Glasgow – especially note-worthy as Aberdeen had under half the number of sales than the other two. Looking at the bigger picture, across Scotland the recent data suggests that the commercial property sales market has been quieter than we have been used to in the past few years.'

'That said, investment remains strong in Scottish real estate, with industry data experts CoStar reporting £584m invested into the sector in Q2. This brings the total investment for 2018 so far to £1.4bn,

up on the same period in both 2017 and 2016.

'Overall, it was a mixed quarter for Scottish commercial property sales, with Aberdeen again showing signs of recovery, but subdued elsewhere.'



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Please send CV and a covering letter by 21 September 2018 to: The Staff Partner at Albany Chambers, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AL or by e mail to [mail@simmers.co.uk](mailto:mail@simmers.co.uk) [www.simmers.co.uk](http://www.simmers.co.uk)



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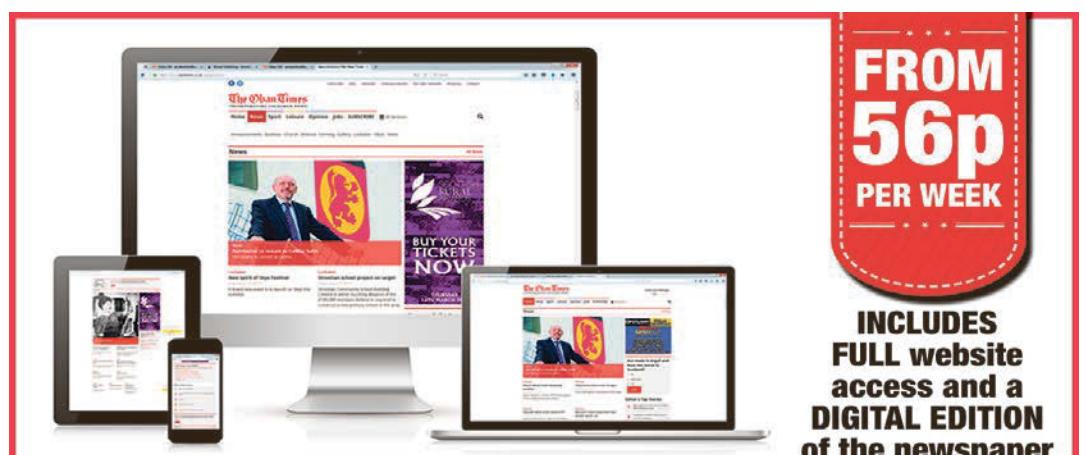
The ideal candidate will have a sound working knowledge of quarry operations, as well as general maintenance activities. A flexible approach to work and good communication skills are also essential for this role and you would ideally hold or be working towards a SHE NVQ Level 3.

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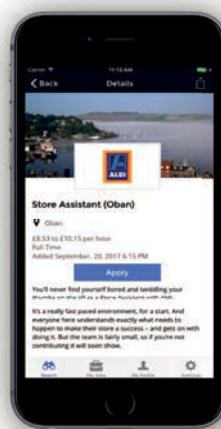
We are looking for a qualified accountant with experience of working in management accounting environment within a group structure capable of working independently but alongside the finance team in Norway.

You will be responsible for all management accounting financial reporting, and analysis including reporting to the parent company in Norway. You will report the company cash flow and financial position to the UK General Manager and oversee the work taken by the Office Managers. As the company continues to expand you will be expected to enhance internal controls and systems. You will preferably have experience in the use of Microsoft Dynamics Navision software.

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**TRANSPORT SCOTLAND**

### THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (GLENCOE) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD) ORDER 2018

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order under sections 2(1) and 2, 4(1) and 14(1)(b) and (4) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, temporarily prohibiting traffic on that length of :

1. The A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road from a point about 1.2 kilometres or thereby southeast of its junction with the ZC1094 Glen Etive Road junction in a generally southeastwards direction to a point about 4.8 kilometres or thereby southeastwards of the said ZC1094 Glen Etive Road junction, a distance of 3.6 kilometres or thereby.

2. The A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road from a point about 5.1 kilometres or thereby west of its junction with the ZC1094 Glen Etive Road junction in a generally westwards direction to a point about 8.3 kilometres or thereby west of the ZC1094 Glen Etive Road junction, a distance of 3.2 kilometres or thereby.

The Order, which is required to facilitate filming on the road, will be in operation from 8th September until 9th September 2018 it is anticipated the closure will be in operation for periods of up to 2 minutes every 20 minutes during the hours of 07:00 hrs to 11:00 hrs.

The Order does not apply to vehicles being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police or coastguard purposes.

#### ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

Alternative routes are not required.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291>

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit [www.trafficscotland.org.uk](http://www.trafficscotland.org.uk)

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## PUBLIC NOTICES



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**TRANSPORT SCOTLAND**

### THE A87 TRUNK ROAD (LUIB) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD) ORDER 2018



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**TRANSPORT SCOTLAND**

### THE A87 TRUNK ROAD (LUIB) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON USE OF ROAD) ORDER 2018

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS give notice that they have made the above Order under sections 2(1) and (2), 4(1) and 14(1)(b) and (4) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, temporarily prohibiting traffic on:

1. That length of the A87 Invergarry - Kyle of Lochalsh - Borve - Uig Trunk Road from a point 1.4 kilometres or thereby northeast of the eastmost junction with the Luib Village Road in a generally southeastwards direction to a point about 500 metres or thereby northeast of the said Luib Village Road junction , a distance of 1.1 kilometres or thereby.

2. That length of the A87 Invergarry - Kyle of Lochalsh - Borve - Uig Trunk Road from a point 3.4 kilometres or thereby west and northwest of the westmost junction with the Luib Village Road in a generally northwards direction to a point about 4.8 kilometres or thereby west and northwest of the said westmost Luib Village Road junction, a distance of 1.4 kilometres or thereby.

The Order, which is required to facilitate filming on the Trunk Road, will be in operation from 10th September 2018 to 11th September 2018. The Order does not apply to vehicles while being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police or coastguard purposes or a vehicle being used to facilitate the holding of the event.

#### ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

An alternative route for traffic during the prohibition is not required as restrictions will only be in place for approximately 2 minutes intervals intermittently throughout the day.

A copy of the Order and this Notice will be available on the Transport Scotland website at <https://www.transport.gov.scot/road-orders/?roadorderregion=1291>

For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit [www.trafficscotland.org.uk](http://www.trafficscotland.org.uk)

#### A SOMERVILLE

A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers  
Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road,  
Glasgow G4 0HF



## Argyll and Bute Council

### PLANNING

These applications listed below may be inspected between 09:00-12.30 -13.30-16:00 hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, 1A Manse Brae Lochgilphead PA31 8RD, your Local Customer Service Point and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).

#### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

#### TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref. No.	Proposal	Site Address
18/01786/PP	Demolition of dwellinghouse and replacement with new dwellinghouse	Barr Bheag, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute PA35 1HY
18/01733/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access	Land East Of Church Cottage, Portnacahan, Dalmally, Argyll And Bute
18/01838/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land East Of Achadh Na Mara, Fionnphort, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
18/01742/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, detached garage and installation of septic tank	Plot 2 Deerview, Land East Of Heather Cottage, Ichrrachran, Taynuilt, Oban Argyll And Bute
18/01769/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South West Of Knysna, Glenshelleach Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute PA34 4PP
18/01715/PPP	Renewal of planning permission in principle 15/01946/PPP (Site for the erection of dwellinghouse and removal of existing chalet and sheds)	Garden Ground Of Pennyfuir Cottage, Dunbeg, Oban, Argyll And Bute
18/01663/PP	Erection of bothy and associated works	Land South East Of Creagh-Na-Hullach, Ardtun, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
18/01837/LIB	Removal of horizontal overhead beam	Connel Bridge, Connel, Argyll And Bute
18/01792/PP	Erection of 2 stores	The Atlantic Islands Centre, Cullipool, Isle Of Luing, Oban, Argyll And Bute PA34 4TX
18/01735/PP	Erection of house in multiple occupation, installation of sewage treatment plant, air source heat pump and formation of vehicular access	Plot 2 Barnside, Taynuilt, Argyll And Bute PA35 1HP
18/01732/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse	Land Adjacent To Maravaig, Pattullo Lane, Tobermory, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute PA75 6AF
18/01696/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land South East Of Kilmore, Dervaig, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute
18/01670/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 15/02254/PP (Erection of dwellinghouse and garage)	Ardnacross, Aros, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute PA72 6JS
18/01613/PP	Variation of condition 2 of planning permission reference 10/01733/PP (Change of use from vacant land to extend and refurbish existing caravan park to facilitate additional 7 no. caravans) – to allow for the siting of 5 additional caravan/motor home pitches	Creaganlea, Appin, Argyll And Bute
18/01784/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land West Of Starchmill Farm (Plot 3), Bridgend, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute
18/01778/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land West Of Starchmill Farm (Plot 1), Bridgend, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute
18/01779/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land West Of Starchmill Farm (Plot 2), Bridgend, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute
18/01638/LIB	Refurbishment to include internal and external alterations	Islay House Square, Bridgend, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute PA44 7NZ
18/01626/PP	Erection of storage building	The Yard, Gortonvogie Road, Bowmore, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute PA43 7JB
18/01664/PP	Change of use of land for the siting of holiday pod (retrospective)	The Old Excise House, Port Ellen, Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7DS
18/01785/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land West Of Starchmill Farm (Plot 4), Bridgend, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute

Written comments can be made to the above address or submitted online <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/find-and-comment-planning-applications> within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered. A weekly list of all applications can be viewed at all Area Offices, Council Libraries and on the Council's website.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at:

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Comhairle Earra – Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



## WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2011

### APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF AUTHORISATION COIRE GLAS HYDRO ELECTRIC GENERATION STATION

An application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Coire Glas Hydro Pumped Storage Limited to vary water use licence number CAR/L/1108419 authorising the carrying on of controlled activities at, near or in connection with Coire Glas Hydro Electric Generation Scheme, as follows:

Description of change to controlled activity	Waters affected	National grid reference
Additional abstraction of 23,720,000 m <sup>3</sup> per day of water	Coire Glas Reservoir and Loch Lochy	NN 2360 9550 & NN 2550 9330
Additional discharge of 23,720,000 m <sup>3</sup> per day of water	Coire Glas Reservoir and Loch Lochy	NN 2360 9550 & NN 2550 9330

SEPA considers that the above change to a controlled activities may have a significant adverse impact on the water environment and on the interests of other users of the water environment.

A copy of the application and any accompanying information may be inspected free of charge, at the SEPA Registry below, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays). Alternatively, the application may be viewed on SEPA's website at: <http://www.sepa.org.uk/regulations/consultations/advertised-applications-under-car/>

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, either by email to [registrydingwall@sepa.org.uk](mailto:registrydingwall@sepa.org.uk) or to the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1108419:

**Registry Department, SEPA, Dingwall office, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB**

Written representations received by SEPA within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making the requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made SEPA will include a statement in the register indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

Before determining the application, SEPA will:

- Assess the risk to the water environment posed by the carrying on of the activity or activities;
- Assess the indirect effects of that impact on any other aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected;
- Consider any likely adverse social and economic effects of that impact and of any indirect environmental effects that have been identified;
- Consider the likely environmental, social and economic benefits of the activity;
- Assess the impact of the controlled activity or activities on the interests of other users of the water environment;
- Assess what steps may be taken to ensure efficient and sustainable water use; and
- Apply and have regard to relevant legislation.

SEPA will then either grant or refuse to grant the application.

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**ACHA**  
argyll community housing association

**Annual General Meeting**

To be held on  
Thursday 20th September 2018  
commencing at 2.00pm  
in the Inveraray Inn, Inveraray

All members are invited to attend

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**Argyll and Bute Council**

**Councillor Roddy McCuish (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)**  
Councillor McCuish will be holding a surgery on Friday 7th September 2018 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 1.30pm - 4.00pm.  
He can be contacted by email – [Roderick.McCuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Roderick.McCuish@argyll-bute.gov.uk) and by telephone 01631 567854.

**Councillor Jim Lynch (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)**  
Councillor Lynch will be holding a surgery on Friday 14th September 2018 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.  
He can be contacted by email – [Jim.Lynch@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Jim.Lynch@argyll-bute.gov.uk) and by telephone 01631 567893.

**Councillor Elaine Robertson (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)**  
Councillor Robertson will be holding a surgery on Friday 28th September 2018 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 10.00am - 12 Noon.  
Councillor Robertson can also be contacted by email – [Elaine.Robertson@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Elaine.Robertson@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Councillor Sir Jamie McGrigor (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)**  
Councillor Sir McGrigor will be holding a surgery on Friday 28th September 2018 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.  
He can be contacted by email – [Jamie.McGrigor@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Jamie.McGrigor@argyll-bute.gov.uk) and by telephone 01631 567853.

**Councillor Kieron Green (E.W. 5 Oban North and Lorn)**  
Councillor Green will be holding a surgery on Friday 21st September 2018 in the Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban from 2.00pm - 4.00pm.  
He can be contacted by email – [Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:Kieron.Green@argyll-bute.gov.uk) and by telephone 01631 562 444.

## FORT WILLIAM 2040: PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

Wednesday 12th September 2018

10am-4pm and 7pm start evening session

At The Nevis Centre, An Aird, Fort William

You are invited to a consultation event to discuss the future of Fort William and the wider Lochaber area.

There are a number of changes on the horizon in Fort William ranging from investment in the former smelter, relocation of the Belford Hospital, and new industrial and housing development. To help plan for these changes a draft masterplan is being prepared - which we have called Fort William 2040 or FW2040 - showing how the town and the wider Lochaber area could best take advantage of these developments. We would like local people, businesses and interest groups and public agencies to work together in finalising this masterplan and agreeing how and when future development can be delivered.

You are therefore invited to participate in the FW2040 consultation event, which is being jointly organised by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Government and the Highland Council. The event will involve workshop sessions held between 10am and 4pm and a final evening session starting at 7pm when participants will be asked to contribute to finalising this vision for the future and agree how it will be delivered.

Topics will include where or when development takes place, the supporting infrastructure improvements that are needed and who might need to be involved in implementing proposals identified.

Visit [consult.highland.gov.uk/portal/fw2040](http://consult.highland.gov.uk/portal/fw2040) to find out more or phone 01463 702276 to confirm your attendance.

Development and Infrastructure Service Highland Council  
6 September 2018



CROFTING  
COMMISSION  
COIMISEAN NA  
CROITEARACHD  
DECROFTING  
DIRECTIONS ISSUED

JWM Dougall  
C Dougall  
Ardionra, Eastend in  
Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon  
0.08 ha  
Existing house site  
With fencing conditions  
Case Ref: 86425

A MacGillivray  
6 & 7 Muirshearlich,  
Kilmallie  
0.209 ha  
Site for a dwelling house  
With fencing conditions  
Case Ref: 90805

ER McAllister  
½ 3 Claddach, Kilchoman  
0.118 ha  
Site for a dwelling house  
With fencing conditions  
Case Ref: 84452

Full details at [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

FIRST REGISTRATION  
OF A CROFT

Fiona Mary Morrice Hutchison has registered her croft Blarhasgaig, in the Parish of Lismore and Appin in the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 21st May 2019. Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C5359.

FIRST REGISTRATION  
OF A CROFT

Helen Fraser has registered her croft 2 Mandally, Kilmorivaig on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland. Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by May 8, 2019. Details of the registration can be found at [www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home](http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home). The croft registration number is C5340.

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL  
(U2618 TORNACARRAIDH ROAD, TOMDOUN,  
TORNACARRAIDH BRIDGE)  
(TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2018

Notice is hereby given that on 28/08/2018 The Highland Council made an Order in terms of Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended entitled as above. The Order has been made in order to provide Council Bridge Inspectors a safe working zone to survey and inspect Tornacarraidh Bridge, Tomdoun.

The use by vehicles of the length of road specified in the Schedule hereto is prohibited from 2pm until 5pm on Wednesday 26th September 2018 when the Order will be in force. Access will be provided for Emergency Service Vehicles and pedestrians. No diversion route is possible

A copy of the Order can be inspected at the Service Point, Charles Kennedy Building, Achintore Road, Fort William, on weekdays during normal office hours.

<date> 2018 Sarah Duncan Principal Solicitor, Highland Council HQ, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness

SCHEDULE

Road Affected

U2618 – Tornacarraidh Road, Tomdoun

The road will be closed at its junction with C1144 Daingean Bridge – Tomdoun – Loch Quoich Road

The Highland Council (B8004 Mucomir Bridge, Mucomir)

(Temporary Road Closure) Order 2018

On 28/08/2018 The Highland Council made the above Order in terms of Section 14 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, to enable Bridge Inspectors a safe working zone to survey and inspect Mucomir Bridge

The use by vehicles of the length of road specified in the Schedule here-to is prohibited between 9am and 1pm on Wednesday 26th September, 2018 when the Order is in force

Emergency Vehicles and pedestrians will be permitted through the site. In addition access will be permitted for residents from the A82 Commando Memorial Junction to Mucomir Farm. All other traffic will be diverted via the A82, A840 and B80004 (Banavie Junction).

A copy of the Order can be inspected at the Service Point, Charles Kennedy Building, Achintore Road, Fort William, on weekdays during normal office hours.

28/08/2018 Sarah Duncan Principal Solicitor, The Highland Council HQ, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness 2018

SCHEDULE

Road Affected

B8004 (Mucomir Bridge, Mucomir)

Commencing at the A82 Commando Memorial junction, extending in a westerly direction to Mucomir Bridge.

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3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

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adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

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10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.

11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment, the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997  
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk> or electronically at your nearest Service Point. You can find your nearest Service Point via the following link [https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a\\_to\\_z](https://www.highland.gov.uk/directory/16/a_to_z)

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
18/03529/PIP	9 Seaview Grazings Strontian, Acharacle	Erection of house
18/04048/PIP	Land 350M NE Of Hillview Achnaha, Kilchoan	Erection of house
18/03164/FUL	Land 30M East Of Keppanach Cuilcheanna, Onich	Proposed Dwelling House
18/04047/PIP	Land 30M North Of Cnoc Na Sith, Achnaha Kilchoan	Erection of house
18/03685/FUL	Craigard Invergarry	Change of use from guest house to hotel and erection of bakehouse/ cafe & maintenance unit

Time period for comments is 14 days

ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL  
SECTION 65, TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997  
(AS AMENDED)

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL (CUILCHEANNA HOUSE, ONICH)  
(REVOCATION) ORDER 2018

TAKE NOTICE that the Highland Council, as Planning Authority for the area of Highland, have made an Order under Section 65 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) to partially revoke Planning Permissions LO/1978/612 and LO/1979/104 for the erection of six holiday chalets, on land at Culcheanna House, Onich. On the date that the Order under Section 65 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended) takes effect:

1. The Planning Permissions LO/1978/612 and LO/1979/104 will be revoked in part but only in so far as Planning Permissions LO/1978/612 and LO/1979/104 apply to the three unbuilt holiday letting chalets, numbered 1 to 3 on approved drawing no. AD/2A (LO/1979/104).
2. The Planning Permissions LO/1978/612 and LO/1979/104 in so far as they relate to the three unbuilt chalets numbered 1 to 3 on approved drawing no. AD/2A (LO/1979/104) shall cease to have effect.
3. The Planning Permissions LO/1978/612 and LO/1979/104 in so far as they relate to the three built chalets, numbered 4, 5 and 6 on approved drawing no. AD/2A (LO/1979/104) shall continue to have full force and effect.

The Council has been notified in writing by the owner and occupier of the land that they do not object to the Order. The Council is of the opinion that no other person will be affected by the Order.

If you wish an opportunity of appearing before, and being heard by, a person appointed by the Scottish Ministers you should give notice in writing to that effect to the Scottish Government, Development Department, Planning Division, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ, not later than the Eleventh day of October Two Thousand and Eighteen.

If no such notice has been given by that date, the Council shall confirm the Order and, upon the date of confirmation, the Order shall take effect.

Dated 3 September 2018

Head of Corporate Governance, The Highland Council, Council Headquarters , Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS, IV3 5NX

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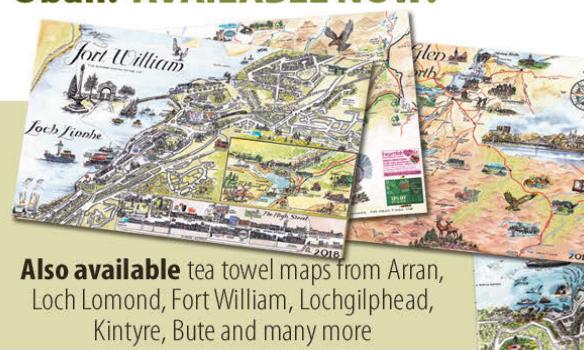
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2 MAN TENT, never used, still in original bag. All complete, £5 Telephone 01546 605374.

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TUMBLE DRYER Beko 7KG tumble dryer, seldom used, £60, Telephone 01631 564019<sup>2</sup>.

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## PERSONAL

### GOLDEN WEDDING

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## BIRTHS

**ROBERTSON** - To Jamie and Lotti (née Mellor) a son Beauden Ewart Hally born September 2, 2018, a brother to Alfie.

## GOLDEN WEDDINGS

**LOGAN - BAIN** - Colin to Ann on September 4, 1968 in Tarbert Parish Church. Service conducted by Rev. Eadie. Present address: 8 Hillside, Dunbeg.

## DEATHS

**CLARK** - Peacefully after a long illness on August 29, 2018 aged 92 years, Mary Clark, Kilninian, Isle of Mull. Daughter of the late Hugh and Mary Clark, dear sister of the late Alasdair, Effie and Tommy. Funeral service was held at Salen Parish Church on Wednesday September 5, 2018 thereafter to Cardross Crematorium.

**COATS** - Peacefully, on August 27, 2018, with her three girls by her side, Sarah Margaret (née Pizey), in her 81st year, a loving wife of the late Sandie Coats, and much loved mother to Amanda, Fiona and Annie. Also a dearly loved sister, mother-in-law, grandmother, and good friend to many. A service will be held at Cardross Crematorium, at 1.15pm, on Thursday, September 13, 2018, followed by a service of thanksgiving, at Kilberry Church, at 2.30pm, on Friday, September 14, 2018. Family and friends are warmly invited to both. Donations, in lieu of flowers, to Marie Curie Cancer Care. For further details please contact Stan Lupton Funeral Directors, Tarbert.

**CROARKIN** - Suddenly at home on September 1, 2018, aged 80 years, Isa, beloved wife of the late Michael dear mum to Malcolm and Iain and a much loved granny. Rest in Peace.

**DAY** - John Christopher (Chris). Peacefully on Tuesday August 29, 2018 at Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead. Chris, 16 Caledonia Court, Ardrishaig (formerly of Ford), aged 83 years, much loved father of Angus (died 1991) and Rory, beloved grandfather to Rosie and Jamie and dear former husband of Valerie, Ardfern. Funeral service at Craignish Parish Church, Ardfern on Monday, September 10 at 11.30 am, followed by burial at Kirkton. Many thanks to the nurses, doctors and the teams at Argyll Homecare and Caledonia Court for all their support.

**LAWSON** - Moraig (née McPhail), Barcaldine, Longniddry and Suffolk. On August 20, 2018, aged 90, our beautiful mother, surrounded by her loving family, now at peace. Beloved wife of the late George Lawson, a granny and great-granny. All welcome to attend Ardchattan Parish Church, Connel, Argyll, September 21 at 12 noon. There will follow an interment for Moraig and George at Achnaba Cemetery in the same location. Family flowers only, but charitable donations to Alzheimers Research UK or MHA The Martins Amenity Fund on the day.

**MACDONALD** - Peacefully at the home of her daughter, on September 1, 2018, in her 100th year, Christina, (Chrissie), beloved wife of the late Donald MacDonald, much loved mother of Betty and Peter, mother-in-law of Ivor and Kay and a dearly loved gran and great gran. Sorely missed. Funeral service will take place at Oban Parish Church, Glencruitten Road, Oban, on Monday, September 10, 2018 at 1.00 pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiral collection/donations will be taken for The Erskine Home, Bishopton.

**MACDOUGALL** - Duncan MacDougall, aged 75 years, passed away peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban surrounded by family on Tuesday, August 21, 2018. Devoted husband of Joan, much loved father of Fiona, Derek, Lorraine, Louise and Alison, and cherished Grampa of Robert, Amy, Jack, Autumn, Abbey, Leah and Emily. Admired father-in-law, brother and friend. Funeral Service was held at Oban Parish Church on Tuesday, August 28.

**MACKILLIGIN** - Peacefully at her home, Corranbeg House, Ardfern, on August 24, 2018, Faith Mackilligin, née Shannon, aged 80 years, dearly loved mother of Hannah and Shannon, little granny of Olivia and Rosie, Luke, Zoe and Madeleine, wife of the late Sandy Mackilligin, step-mother to Alice and Sam, sister to Jane and Posy, aunt to Sonya, Paul, Nicki and John, and cousin to Wendy. Funeral service will be held at Craignish Parish Church, Ardfern, on Friday, September 7, 2018 at 11.30am, thereafter to Kilvaree Cemetery and The Craignish Village Hall for refreshments. All friends are welcome to attend.

**MACLEOD** - Peacefully at Lynn of Lorne Care Home, Benderloch on August 31, 2018, Catherine (née MacCulloch), beloved mum to Betty and Shona, mother-in-law to Allan and Alistair, nana to Richard, Christopher, Nikki, Stephanie and Graeme, Alisha, Stuart and Karina and great-nana to Crystal, Melody, Ethan, Harris and Lewis, sister to Margaret and the late Jean and Betty. Sorely missed.

## MEMORIAL SERVICES

**RYAN** - Frances, Julia and Ross would like to thank everyone for their kindness and thoughtfulness over the last few months. There will now not be a memorial service for Nick in October.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**LAURIE** - Fiona, James, Eoghan, Janet and Roberta would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and letters received following the death of their dad, grandad and great grandad, Jimmy, of Acharn, Morvern, who died on August 23. Beloved husband of the late Isobel. We also wish to thank all staff of Ward 1, Belford Hospital, and Dr's of Lochaline Medical Centre. A special thank you to Shonah

the carer who went beyond and above the call of duty. Rev Donald McCorkindale for his comforting service and to Scott and staff of John McLellan, Funeral Directors for their sensitive handling of the funeral arrangements. Lochaline Hotel for the Funeral Purvey. The retiral collection taken amounted to £994.70 and was divided between Diabetes UK and Marie Curie Nurses. Thank you to all who came to pay their last respects at Keil Church and graveside

**MACINTOSH** - Fiona, Alasdair, Mhairi and families would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support following their sad loss of Barbara (Barrie). Grateful thanks to Rev R Baxter and Kilmonivaig Church, Fr Tom, the staff at Mike McFall Funeral Directors and The Lochy. Thanks also to all who paid their respects at the church where the sum of £605 was collected for the Lochaber branch of Macmillan nurses.

**MACLEAN** - Helen and family of the late John (Iain) MacLean would like to extend their sincere gratitude and thanks to everyone for their cards, messages of support and acts of kindness following their recent sad loss. Special thanks go to the nurses and staff of HDU in the Belford Hospital for their care and compassion. Sincere thanks to Fr Roddy McAuley for Holy Mass in St. John's, Caol and to Fr John Paul MacKinnon for Requiem Mass in St. Brendan's, Craigston, Isle of Barra who both fondly remembered Iain in their words of comfort. Sincere thanks also go to all involved in the funeral arrangements, Jamie and Beth from McFall's Funeral Directors, Charlie MacDougall undertaker in Barra and the staff and management of the Craigard Hotel, Barra. Grateful thanks to all who came to the services and the graveside. Donations in Iain's memory were collected at both services and £700 will be donated to the Belford Hospital.

## MEMORIAMS

**CAMPBELL** - Cherished memories of Colin, who died September 5, 2015. 'MUSIC NEVER DIES'. - Lorna and family.

**RAVEN** - In loving memory of our brother Billy, who passed away on September 3, 2009. Always remembered, never forgotten.

- Marleen and Allan.

**CURRIE** - Forever in our hearts Donald (Donnie) who passed away September 5, 2017. Dearly loved husband of Fiona, loving father to Fiona and Colin, admired father in law to Janet and Ronald and a fun loving papa to Aileen, Nikki, Laura and Colin. Deep in our hearts are the previous memories we all shared with you that lives on in our hearts to treasure forever

- From your loving wife Fiona and family xxx xxx xxx

**BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS**  
**Oban Times**  
**BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS**

**MACCOLL** - In loving memory of Angus J. MacColl, Glengorm, Isle of Mull, a precious husband, father, seanair, son, brother, uncle and friend who we had to part with on September 3, 2017. His charming ways and smiling face Are a pleasure to recall He had a kindly word for each And left much loved by all. You're always with us Angus, very deeply and sorely missed. - The MacColl family.

**MACDONALD** - Kelly, 3 years have passed since we last saw your smile, we love and miss you every day, you remain in our hearts forever.

- Love mum, dad and Shaun xxx.

**MOYES** - In loving memory of Ted, a dear dad and grandpa who died September 9, 2014. Those we love don't go away They walk beside us every day Unseen, unheard but always near Still loved, still missed and very dear

- Anne, Caroline, Ted and families.

**RAE** - In loving memory of Joe Rae, Ballachulish, who passed away September 10, 1998. Loved and remembered every day. Margaret, Kirsteen Stephen, Zander and Joss.



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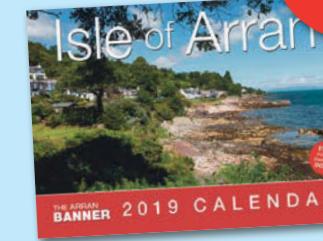
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# Meals charity feeds Kerala flood families

Dalmally-founded charity Mary's Meals has launched an emergency campaign to help get food supplies to 13,000 families devastated by floods in Kerala.

The charity is appealing for public support to help it reach homeless and hungry flood victims in some of the worst-affected areas.

It is working hard with its long-standing partner in India, BREAD, to delivering essential food supplies but desperately needs donations to support its relief effort.

Father Joson Thakaran, who leads Mary's Meals' partner organisation in India, travelled to his home state of Kerala to meet people displaced by the flooding and to coordinate the emergency food distribution.

"These are the worst floods in living memory; a real deluge on a level that is unprecedented. Homes are under

seven feet of water. People have lost their livelihoods and their possessions. Some people have lost their lives," he said.

And he added: "Mary's Meals has responded very quickly with a plan to provide emergency food to the poorest of the poor living in the worst-affected areas."

As the flood waters recede, many people across the region are expected to return from temporary camps to find their homes severely damaged and their crops and livestock decimated.

In an initial response, Mary's Meals is distributing emergency food parcels containing rice to thousands of vulnerable families in two villages within the flood-ravaged Alappuzha District in the Kuttanad region of Kerala.

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, who is founder and

global chief executive of Mary's Meals and oversees its work from a shed in the garden of his Dalmally home, said: "We have a long history of responding to emergency situations through existing partners who are well-placed to provide quick and effective relief to those who are suffering.

While providing daily meals in a place of education is always our primary focus, we are moved to respond to those in need whenever we are able and we're incredibly thankful to our partner in India and to our supporters for their commitment and generosity and for the love they are showing to the people of Kerala in the midst of this disaster."

To find out how you can help, go to [marysmeals.org.uk](http://marysmeals.org.uk). Mary's Meals also has a charity shop in Stevenson Street, Oban.

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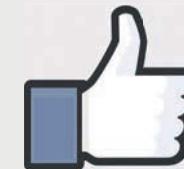
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## THOUGHT for the week

What is your earliest memory? Mine is of looking out our flat in Partick watching the steam trains shunting in Crow Road goods yard.

And as a Glasgow boy, I can say my earliest words were: 'It wisnae me!'

I also know I was baptised, but of that I have no memory for I was a babe in arms when the love of God was declared for me.

While the vast majority of people have no recollection of their baptism, this does not, in any way, invalidate the Sacrament. Rather, you grow up in the church with the understanding that you belong. The initiative is God's. God's Holy Spirit descends upon you - his love pours forth in the water of baptism. This does not depend on your understanding. God loves you first.

As you grow up, you may choose to stay within the faith or go your own way. This is so similar to what may happen in families. We raise children to be strong and independent, while hoping that as adults they will come to love you back.

Last Sunday, in Oban, we had a Cradle Roll service for the babies and now toddlers who were baptised over the past couple of years. Why? Because you should never forget to tell children they are loved, by you and by God.

Thinking back to childhood, my fondest memories are of being loved by my mum and dad. I was fortunate, but too many are not. May those of us baptised in faith be generous in loving today every single child of God, no matter what their age may be.

Rev Dugald Cameron,  
Minister of Kilmore and  
Oban.



One of the many homes devastated by floods in Kerala.

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OT

## SAILING



Round Shuna Race winners.

## Variety of wind conditions for Round Shuna fleet

With a mix of strong winds gusting to 30 knots from the south to zephyrs and a wind direction change at the north end of the island, Clyde Corinthian Yacht Club's Round Shuna Pursuit Race held last Sunday proved a testing race for all competitors.

Pursuit races see yachts leave according to handicap with the theory all boats finish together. Competitors in the Round Shuna pursuit decide which way to circumnavigate the island.

Most of the yachts opted to race 'south about' with lumpy conditions of wind against tide at the south end of Shuna. However, past Toberonochy and in the lea of the island, boats had to contend with a complete wind direction change forcing a beat to the north turning mark for most. Those yachts opting for a north about race also struggled to find enough wind. Thereafter the fight for everyone was to get into the true breeze again and it was Amber Haze from Oban Sailing Club that tacked in to this fastest maintaining a good lead to the finish. Eric and Irena Chapman's Sigma 33 lifted the prized case of bubbly for first boat home winning their class and the Lord of the Isles Trophy and the Camus Trophy for first over the line.

Runner up in Class 2 was Billy Forteith's Shadowfax with Adrian Laycock's Prime Cut in third.

Class 2 and the Mangle Mug went to Brian Wiseman and Sorr of Appin with Alan Gent White's An Sulair second and Findlay Clark's Tarragona third.

Class 3 was taken by Hot Toddy winning the Giving Tree Trophy with Seonaid Reid's beautiful Malindi of Lorne second and Alistair Spence's Aurantes third.

Only one Flying Fifteen braved the race and the excellent sailing efforts of Calum Pollock and his crew helming Clive Brown's Ffaolcuain won them the Craobh Haven Village Stores decanter. They also won the Flying Fifteen Trophy for the best FF of the weekend.

The much-prized Brendan Bucket for the last boat to finish within the time limit was awarded to the Boyds sailing two up on 2 Extreme. Guy Neville raced with a crew of cadets and they lifted a special prize as was the youngest helm in the fleet – Ollie Sumner of Malindi.

The best overall boat of the weekend was given to Amber Haze for the firsts in the pursuit race and a second placing in the feeder race to Craobh. The Chapman family lifted the Craobh Haven Challenge Cup.

### Oban and Ardfearn Feeder Races

Prior to the Round Shuna race, two feeder races were run on Saturday to Craobh, one from Oban and the other from Ardfearn.

With a long beat for the Oban boats in a steady breeze to Cuan, Graham Anderson and team on their Hanse Lucky Ned Pepper took an early lead. Despite the wind dying after passage through Cuan Sound, they held on to their lead to win from the Chapman family's Amber Haze with Adrian Laycock's Prime Cut third.

The Ardfearn race saw a mix of conditions. Gavin Marshall's Elan Celerity took the honours from Sorr of Appin and Anne and Andrew Campbell's Ajax in third place.

The Fielden Trophy for the best Flying Fifteen was won by Calum Pollock helming Ffaolcuain.

Despite a much-reduced fleet the weekend was a great success. The call was made for an increase in boat numbers across the board, including the return of the dinghy fleet for next year's event.

# Impressive start for Lorne Ladies

Glasgow University	0
Oban Lorne Ladies	61
Women's National League 1	

Oban Lorne Ladies made the journey on Sunday to play Glasgow University in their first outing of the new season.

Glasgow Uni took kick off, kicking the ball straight into touch resulting in an Oban line-out which was executed well resulting in good attacking presence from Oban.

Oban Ladies continued to attack with a good break from captain Laura MacCormick

putting Oban in Glasgow's 22. Lucy Stewart then managed to find a gap, breaking through to score the first try of the day which she then converted to give Oban a 7-0 lead.

After the restart the visitors continued to apply pressure on the Glasgow defence with



Oban Lorne Ladies with coach Corrie Louw celebrate their win over Glasgow University.

Photos: Stephen Lawson

centre pairing Sinclair and Skofca working well together breaking through to create space for Stewart to score her second try of the day, which again was converted from a tight angle to give Oban a 14-0 lead.

As well as having a strong attacking presence the Oban defence stood strong with big tackles being made. Pressure was also applied with strong scrummaging from the forward pack turning the ball over and regaining possession in multiple scrums.

As the game progressed Oban continued to dominate with good runs from props Laura MacCormick and Ellie MacNiven and centre pairing Kirsty Sinclair and Erika Skofca.

These good runs were well supported by flankers Ellidh Shearer and Ailsa MacLachlan supporting the runners and being quick at

## Comfortable win for Green Machine

Oban Lorne	36
Cumbernauld	6
Tennents West Division 2	

Oban Lorne 1st XV got off to a brilliant start to the 2018/19 league season on Saturday, with a comfortable 36-6 bonus point win against Cumbernauld. The men in green kicked off with confidence after a positive pre-season of testing training sessions in the build up to the league. The starting line up saw three 1st caps for Oban Lorne; Number eight Owen McDonald, back row Lorne Sinclair and David Cameron on the wing. Sinclair and Cameron are both products of Oban High School's School of Rugby programme.

Oban pinned Cumbernauld back from the off, with immense pressure from the kick-off, and good attacking play. Finlay Carmichael put captain Iwan Roberts into a gap in the Cumbernauld backline from the first set piece of the game, and the ball was kicked in to the corner, putting pressure on the visitors to try and exit their 22. Cumbernauld struggled to get up the pitch and Oban were awarded with a penalty 25 metres out for holding on in the ruck. Carmichael com-

fortably slotted it over for the first points of the game.

The following 10 minutes saw many breaks in play, with ill discipline from Oban Lorne making it hard for themselves to settle into the game. They were straying offside far too often; an area the team and coaches will be working on improving in training. The first try came somewhat out of the blue, with Craig Wright dancing his way past several defenders sideways across the pitch, and scored under the posts. Carmichael converted. The game continued as it was, with Oban Lorne's over eagerness at the breakdown costing them six points in 10 minutes, with two penalties awarded to Cumbernauld for off-sides.

It was Oban's turn with the ball for the rest of the first half, with some structured attacking play resulting in Cumbernauld defending on their try line. Scrum half Vasil Borisov forced his way through a small gap to score, which was converted by Carmichael. Oban were up 17-6 at the half-time whistle.

Oban scored a try early on in the second half, with some individual brilliance by full back Craig Wright. Cumbernauld cleared their lines with a big kick up field, Carmichael com-

which Wright collected in his own half and beat all defenders on the outside, who couldn't match his electric pace. Wright then chipped the ball over the Cumbernauld full back, and collected the ball to score near the corner.

The next 15 minutes was Cumbernauld's turn to attack. For almost 10 minutes, the Oban forwards put in a massive defensive effort on their own try line, and were eventually awarded a penalty which was celebrated more than any try in the match. The next try came from an impressive team effort and a number of phases, ending with Owen McDonald receiving the ball from a Carmichael missed pass, and running 20m to score on his debut.

The rest of the game was again quite broken, with turnovers at the line-outs frustrating the home side.

Prop Callum MacLachlan was terrorising the Cumbernauld defence with powerful runs, and good support play by the likes of second row Eric Roberts and vice captain Stephen Povey resulted in some great phases of attacking rugby. The final try was in last play and was another brilliant team try.

Prop Corrie Louw threw a

### RUGBY

textbook scrum half pass out wide to Wright, who drew in a defender to create a two on one releasing centre Iwan Roberts with only the full back to beat. Andrew Ritchie timed his support run to perfection and received the ball from Roberts to run in 50m for the try.

The men in green were delighted to start their season with a bonus point win, and will be looking to take the confidence and winning mentality into next week's away game in Paisley. Saturday's result means the team lie in third position, joint top of the table along with Uddington, Lenzie, Paisley and Bishopton, who all recorded bonus point wins. This week's opponents Paisley narrowly missed out on promotion last season and will be a tough test as they also had a good start to the league with a 34-23 win away to Wigtownshire. Kick off on Saturday is at 3pm.

Oban Lorne's next home fixture is on Saturday September 29 as the club welcomes Dalziel RFC from Motherwell to Glencruitten for the quarter final of the West Regional Shield. Kick off on the 29th is at 3pm



Rachel MacDonald touches down for a try.



There's no stopping Erika Skofca as she races for the line.

rucks to protect the ball.

This good team play allowed Oban to play the majority of the match high up the pitch in the opposition's 22

resulting in several tries for Erika Skofca and Lucy Stewart and also one for Rachel MacDonald to make the full-time score Glasgow

## WOMEN'S RUGBY

University 0, Oban Lorne 61.

This Sunday the ladies are at home to Kirkcaldy.

# Islay Marathon on Sunday

The Islay Marathon will be taking place this Sunday (September 9). This will be the fourth Islay Marathon and organisers are confident that this year's event will be as good as ever. It's a fabulous route with some great views running from Portnahaven, along the length of the Rhinns to Bridgend and then following the High Road all the way to Port Ellen. As marathons go, it doesn't get much better than that.

The event is also in memory of Menzies MacAffer, a former pupil of Islay High School who went on to serve with distinction in the Royal Marines and was a keen marathon runner but whose life was tragically cut short. The Menzies MacAffer trophies, which have been kindly donated by the family, will be presented to the first male and female runners.

The race will start at the village hall in Portnahaven at 7.30 am and finish at the Ramsay Hall in Port Ellen. There will be a free bus leaving Port Ellen at about 6am to pick up any runners along the way, for those who want it, to take them to the start at Portnahaven.

It is £30 to enter. Relay teams of two-four can take part if the full marathon is too much

with a £40 entry fee for a team. If interested, please contact Stephen Harrison at the high school, tel: 810239 or 07399 614675 or email: stephen.harrison@argyll-bute.gov.uk for an entry form – the sooner the better. All runners will need to register on Saturday September 17 in the high school between 3.30pm and 5.30pm. At 5.30pm there will be a pasta dinner available (£10 a head), again in the high school, for anyone wanting some carbohydrate loading or even just a nice meal!

The first runners will be appearing at the Ramsay Hall at about 10.30 and all runners and spectators are welcome to refreshments – soup, sandwiches, teas, coffee and

## MARATHON

home-baking – which will be available in the hall.

Monies raised from the event will be used toward Islay High School Expeditions abroad. The school had a very successful trip to Zambia and Botswana last year and now have 19 students heading off to Northern India and the Himalayas next year.

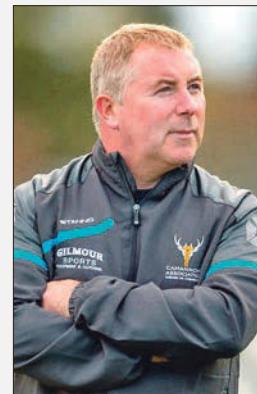
If not taking part, members of the public are asked to please give the runners a welcoming cheer along the route. Volunteers are also needed so if anyone would like to man a water station or be a marshal on the route please let Stephen Harrison know.



Islay Marathon runners.

## SHINTY / HURLING

# Management teams for shinty/hurling internationals chosen



Garry Reid



Stuart Reid



Alan MacRae

The Marine Harvest shinty/hurling international between Scotland and Ireland will take place at Bught Park, Inverness, on October 20 to celebrate 125 years of the Camanachd Association.

This year's event brings the senior male and female teams to one venue for a festival of shinty with their Irish counterparts.

The senior men's management team is Garry Reid, manager; Robert Geddes, assistant coach; and Kenny Ross, assistant coach.

The senior ladies' management team is Stuart Reid and Ross Brown.

The Under 21 management team playing in Ireland on Saturday November 3 is Alan MacRae, manager; Callum MacLeod, assistant coach and Iain McDonald, assistant coach.

Keith Loades, president of the Camanachd Association, said: 'We are delighted to announce this year's management teams for the international fixtures and equally excited about having the men's and ladies'

## FOOTBALL

# International manager stands down



Bruce McNaught

Bruce McNaught has decided to step down as manager of the Scottish Amateur Football Association International Select side. Bruce has been manager for five years and introduced a welcome freshness to the international set up with he and his backroom team covering hundreds of miles to watch players recommended to him.

Many players, including Oban Saints full back Scott Maitland were given the

## GOLF

# Murphy's law

Phillip Murphy won the Stableford Finals at Glencruitten on Saturday with a total of 37 points. Graham MacColl was runner-up with 36 points, followed by Colin Campbell with 35 points. On Saturday the John MacEachen Memorial trophy takes place, 38 teams of four will compete with a shotgun start at 9 am and 1.30 pm.

chance in the international set up and his net was cast wide to give the best amateur players all over Scotland the opportunity to represent their country.

The International Committee wish Bruce all the best for the future.

The committee has appointed Bruce's assistant manager Colin MacLeod as new manager and he will be assisted by Steven Reynolds.

OT

## MINI RUGBY

## Mini Rugby players kick off season at Mull Festival

Mini Rugby players from Oban Lorne, Mid Argyll and Etive Vikings along with hosts Isle of Mull RFC kicked off the 2018/2019 Mini Rugby Dalriada season on Saturday at Garmony.

The festival was the first of this season's Dalriada festivals that involve rugby clubs throughout Argyll along with Highland visitors Lochaber RFC from Fort William.

Saturday's festival attracted a great turnout of players, parents and supporters with some fantastic rugby on show from all of the teams in attendance.

The scores from Saturday were as follows: P4/5 - Etive Vikings 4-3 Oban Lorne; Isle of Mull 5-6 Mid Argyll; Oban Lorne B 0-5 Etive Vikings; Oban Lorne 6-4 Isle of Mull; Isle of Mull 5-3 Oban Lorne B; Mid Argyll 1-4 Oban Lorne; Mid Argyll 5-5 Oban Lorne B; Isle of Mull 1-5 Etive Vikings; Etive Viking 5-3 Mid Argyll; Oban Lorne 5-1 Oban Lorne B.

P6/7 - Oban Lorne 7-5 Oban Lorne B; Etive Vikings 6-5 Mid Argyll; Isle of Mull 6-8 Etive Vikings; Mid Argyll 6-3 Oban Lorne B; Mid Argyll 2-7 Oban Lorne; Isle of Mull 7-7 Oban Lorne B; Oban Lorne 6-5 Isle of Mull; Oban Lorne B 1-6 Etive Vikings; Isle of Mull 4-7 Mid Argyll; Etive Viking 7-5 Oban Lorne.



Participating teams at the Mull Mini Rugby Dalriada.

## SCHOOL RUGBY

## Oban High School host St Thomas Aquinas

Oban High School welcomed St Thomas Aquinas Secondary School from Glasgow to Glencruitten for the opening round of the West T4 Schools Competition last Wednesday.

The schools competed at U13, U14, U15 and U16 girls' age levels with around 145 players taking part over the course of the afternoon.

Oban were comfortable winners in the girls' U15 age group while St Thomas ran out as close winners in both the U13 and U14 age group.

The U16 game doubled up as both the T4 schools fixture and also the first round of the Scottish Schools Cup. Oban impressed in the fixture and won 58-7. Part of the team was made up of players from Tobermory High School, continuing the good partnership between the schools along with Oban Lorne RFC and Isle of Mull RFC.

Oban High School U16s have been handed a tough draw in the next round of the schools cup with Earlston High School from the Borders visiting Oban. This fixture is due to be played by September 12.

## OBAN SAINTS YOUTH FOOTBALL

## Results and fixtures

This Sunday's fixtures - Park Sports Project Trust 0, Under 13s 7. Scoring for Saints were Aidan MacDonald (3), Duncan Macewan, Logan Black, Gabriel Tidser and James Joss. Under 14s no game; Under 16s 1, Dunoon 1. Saints goalscorer was Ruairidh Munro.

This Sunday's fixtures - Under 13s v Clyde Thistle; Under 14s no game; Under 16s v Cambuslang.



James Ford, No 11, slots the ball past Gartcosh keeper Stuart Wilson to make the score 3-1.

# Saints march on in Scottish Cup

## Continued from page 64

narrowly wide of target under pressure from Gerald O'Connell.

As the home side battled to get back into the match the Saints central defensive partnership of Dene Cassells and Steven MacLeod coped well with the experienced Gartcosh twin strike force of Ross Mackie and Steven Williams.

On the half-hour mark Gary Pettigrew tried to repeat his earlier trick from the corner flag but this time found Graham Douglas on his toes to gather safely on his goal-line.

Gartcosh midfielder Peter McAvoy picked up the first yellow card of the afternoon for a late challenge on Daniel Croarkin on the half-way line. From the free-kick Matt Rippon picked out Scott Maitland's overlapping run with the full back finding Lewis Cameron in the box. Cameron's curling finish towards the postage stamp corner was spectacularly tipped over his crossbar by

Stuart Wilson. Cameron's corner kick from the right found Craig MacEwan who beat Mark Adamson in the air to loop a near post header across the face of goal and inches wide of the far post.

The hosts received another injury blow on the stroke of half-time when Peter McAvoy had to be helped off with the referee ending the first 45 minutes before replacement Ross Fisher had even crossed the white line.

Saints were also forced into a half-time switch as Steven MacLeod, who had battled through the first half with a sickness bug, was withdrawn to be replaced in central defence by Willie Gemmill whose midfield berth was taken by replacement Kerr Newbigging.

Saints began the second half strongly with Jamie Graham rampaging down the right and flashing a low cross along the six-yard line which Stuart Wilson did well to cut out at the feet of Craig MacEwan.

Despite being largely in control of proceedings Saints

knew that a goal for the hosts would put an entirely different complexion on the second half. That goal almost came in the 49th minute when a deep free-kick from the Gartcosh left looped over the Saints defence and found its way on to the head of Ross Mackie coming in at the back post. With the goal at his mercy the giant striker will certainly feel he should have done better than find just the side netting with his header from five yards.

A Kerr Newbigging ball over the top sent Craig MacEwan on his way on the hour mark where only a vital interception by Mark Adamson prevented MacEwan from testing Stuart Wilson.

Sixty seconds later at the other end Ross Fisher sent a low shot narrowly wide of the left hand post of Saints keeper Graham Douglas.

The flurry of end-to-end activity continued with Lewis Cameron trying for a second chip of the day over the current Scottish Amateur international goalkeeper. This time the Gartcosh skipper was able reach up and get both hands to the ball.

It was Wilson to the rescue again twice in quick succession in the 65th and 66th minutes making good saves to deny James Ford as Saints searched in vain for a killer fourth goal.

The hosts were leaving big gaps at the back as they pushed forward in search of a precious lifeline however Saints remained unable to take advantage with Craig MacEwan and Matt Rippon both failing to trouble the keeper from decent shooting opportunities.

As the temperature began to rise on and off the pitch Referee Paul Crosbie, who



Saints keeper Graham Douglas safely gathers this Gary Pettigrew corner kick.

## FOOTBALL

handled proceedings well, had to remind Saints secretary David Buchanan of his responsibility to control the Saints touchline pointing out in particular that coach Peter MacCallum's comments, however pertinent he might consider them to be, were strictly 'not required'.

Saints made their final change in the 80th minute when Fraser MacFarlane replaced James Ford.

Gartcosh keeper Stuart Wilson denied Lewis Cameron once again in the 87th minute when he needed two attempts to stop a spinning ball after Mark Adamson had partially blocked Cameron's shot from 18 yards.

With the clock ticking into the four minutes added by Mr Crosbie the Saints defence, which had performed well for the most part, threw the home side a 92nd minute lifeline. Over elaboration along the back four gifted possession to Gary Pettigrew on the left who picked out Steven Williams in the middle for an emphatic finish from seven yards.

A final two nervous minutes ensued as the home side pushed for an unlikely equaliser but the Saints defence thankfully regained its earlier composure to hold on comfortably for a deserved victory and a place in the second round draw.

Saints are on their travels again this coming Saturday when they make the journey to Maryhill to face North Glasgow Colts in the Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division. The game will take place at John Paul Academy, Summerston, with a 2pm kick-off.

# Helen and Abbie help Scotland qualify for Rugby Europe Grand Prix Series

Scotland Women Sevens secured their place in next year's Rugby Europe Grand Prix Series after producing some excellent sevens play to finish third in Kazan, Russia.

Oban's Abi Evans and Scotland captain Helen Nelson from Glencoe played a big part in the success of the team. Abi plays for Glasgow side Hillhead/Jordanhill with Helen is a Murayfield Wanderers player.

Eight tries from Lisa Thomson, Liz Musgrave, Jenny Maxwell, Helen Nelson (2) and Hannah Smith (3) helped the Scots to two victories from three over Wales (29-14) and Portugal (21-10) on day one.

Smith (4) and Helen Nelson added to their tallies on day two and Eilidh Sinclair (2), Lauren Harris, Louise McMillan and Abi Evans opened their accounts in Kazan as Scotland progressed to their first ever Grand Prix Cup semi-final with victories against Ireland (17-15) and Poland (19-12).

The Scots impressive run in Russia ensured they would finish the Grand Prix Series fourth overall in their first year back in the competition.

## Day One

### Scotland 29 -14 Wales

The Scots exploded out of the blocks in their first match and were in front within a minute as Lisa Thomson touched down underneath the posts to make the conversion a formality for captain Helen Nelson.

Scotland doubled their lead through Musgrave (Nelson adding the extras) before Wales responded to narrow the gap.

Jenny Maxwell finished off some excellent sevens interplay to extend the lead once more but a second Welsh try made the score 19-14 at the break.

The second half was all Scotland and captain Nelson led from the front, powering through to give Scotland some breathing space.

Hannah Smith, who missed the first leg in Paris through injury, added some gloss to the result after the clock went red.

### Scotland 0 - 47 Russia

It was much tougher match in Scotland's second outing as they played hosts and cup runners-up in Paris, Russia.

The visitors were never really able to get a foothold in the game and, in spite of some committed defence in



Oban's Abi Evans, front row centre, and Glencoe's Helen Nelson, front row right, with their Scotland team mates after qualifying for the Rugby Europe Grand Prix.

Report: Scottish Rugby

the first half, they were down by three tries and 19 points at half-time.

Russia capitalised on their abundant possession after the break and added four further scores to their tally to win 47-0 and put them in a commanding position atop Pool B.

Mairi McDonald, Bryony Nelson and Evie Wills all came off the bench to win their first sevens caps in the second period.

### Scotland 21 - 10 Portugal

Scotland's final match of the day saw them score three tries in the opening minutes and then hold out against a relentless Portuguese attack to seal their place in the top eight for the weekend and a place in the cup quarter-finals.

It was Helen Nelson who again made an excellent example for her team when she brushed aside a defender in the opening exchanges and cantered over for the opening score.

Hannah Smith scored two more in the opening quarter to put the Scots in a strong position.

Portugal grabbed their first score after camping on the Scottish line and continued their assault throughout the second half but could only record one more score.

## Day Two

### Scotland 17 - 15 Ireland

The pool runner-up spot on day one saw Scotland enter the cup quarter-finals to play Ireland.

It was the Irish who enjoyed

the brighter start and they opened the scoring midway through the half. Scotland were not down-hearted, however, and first Eilidh Sinclair and then Hannah Smith showed their strength and pace to hold a 12-5 half-time lead.

Things looked to get tricky for the Scots when Lisa Thomson, try-scorer on day one, was sin-binned for knocking the ball down and Ireland scored two unconverted tries to give them a slender advantage.

Scotland fought to the death and, stealing an Irish line-out with seconds left, they mounted one more attack.

Bryony Nelson was agonisingly close to scoring her first ever international sevens try but was dragged down just feet short.

The Scots recycled well and it was Louise McMillan who stepped and reached to put her team into their first cup semi-final.

### Scotland 22 - 24 France

Scotland progressed to take on winners of their home first leg, France, in the semi-final.

France struck first with two early tries but Eilidh Sinclair got Scotland on the board midway through the half.

The French looked composed in hitting straight back but it was Hannah Smith who stepped a defender at close range to make sure the Scots were well in the match at half-time (12-17).

Scotland had the best of the second half and, rebounding from another early France try, Lauren Harris raced

## WOMEN'S RUGBY

down the wing and reached to close the gap to seven points with only a couple of minutes remaining.

There were shades of their Ireland quarter-final as again, with the clock red, Scotland poached a French line-out and worked to release Abi Evans who got her first try of the weekend.

Helen Nelson's conversion wide-out slipped agonisingly wide and Scotland would play in the third-place play-off after another strong performance.

### Scotland 19 - 12 Poland

The two teams met in the first leg in Paris earlier this year and Scotland ran out narrow winners to consign Poland to bottom place in their pool.

Both sides looked utterly changed from Marcoussis, however, and Scotland were coming off the back of two great performances that saw them shock Ireland and nearly repeat the feat against France.

Once more the Scots went behind early on but regrouped well and led 7-5 at the break thanks to Hannah Smith's try.

Smith bagged her second of the match at the beginning of the second half and, after a second Polish score, Helen Nelson finished the job by dotting down from close-range.

The win put Scotland in third for the tournament - their highest ever placing at the Grand Prix.

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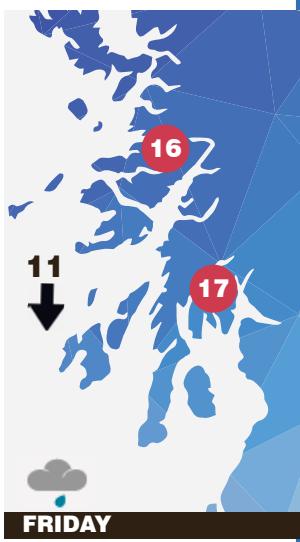
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## WEATHER

### Thursday

Sunny intervals  
Modearte breeze from the north north west  
Temperatures 10°C to 15°C.

### Friday

Light rain  
Gentle breeze from the north  
Temperatures 10°C to 17°C.

### Weekend Outlook

Cloudy on Saturday  
Cloudy on Sunday  
Gentle breeze from the south west  
Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.

## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday September 6, 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Thur	03.09	3.2	08.39	1.4
	15.24	3.4	21.36	1.3
Fri	04.04	3.5	09.43	1.0
	16.13	3.7	22.35	1.0
Sat	04.49	3.7	10.36	0.7
	16.54	4.0	23.22	0.7
Sun	05.27	3.9	11.23	0.5
	17.33	4.2	**.**	**
Mon	00.05	0.5	06.02	4.0
	12.08	0.3	18.10	4.3
Tues	00.46	0.5	06.38	4.1
	12.50	0.2	18.47	4.3
Wed	01.25	0.5	07.13	4.0
	13.31	0.3	19.22	4.2

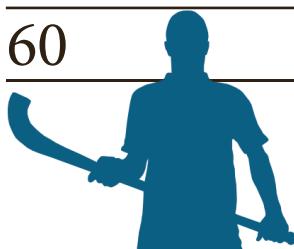
Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

## Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd**



# SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

# Women's shinty cup fi

Badenoch & Strathspey won the WCA Marine Harvest Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup, Glenurquhart lifted the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup and the North U21 eventually came out on top in the annual Caol Cup clash following the shinty action on Saturday September 1.

## Women's shinty Marine Harvest Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup - final

**Skye Camanachd 1**  
**Badenoch & Strathspey 4**

Three goals late gave Badenoch & Strathspey the WCA Marine Harvest Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup as they beat Skye Camanachd 4-1 in the final which was a 4.05pm throw up at the Dell on Saturday September 1.

With the venue decided at the start of the season, Badenoch had home advantage and this was the first women's final to be broadcast live on television with BBC ALBA covering the game.

A big crowd gathered for the final and the pitch was in its usual immaculate condition.

Skye, who were the holders after beating Lochaber 6-1 in last year's final, could hardly have had a more straightforward route to this year's show-piece game. The islanders received a bye in the quarter-finals against Strathspey which led to a semi-final tie against Glasgow Mid Argyll and when they also failed to field a team, the Skye squad received free passage all the way to the final.

Badenoch on the other hand have had two tough ties to negotiate. Zoe Reid and Rhona MacIntyre gave them a 2-1 win at Aberdour in the quarter-finals whilst it took extra-time before they finally saw off Lochaber; winning 2-0 in the semi-finals thanks to strikes from Katie Falconer and Zoe Reid.

Skye Camanachd head coach Robbie Gordon gave Sarah Corrigall

a start with Ilana Paterson, who had been suffering an injury, taking a place on the bench.

Badenoch head coach Scott Campbell and his assistant Iain Robinson were able to call on Kirsty Deans who missed three months of the season after suffering a leg break whilst playing football for Farmington Forfar.

The players were led on to the field by piper Cluanie Fraser who plays shinty for the Kingussie second team.

The squads were introduced to Steve Bracken and Iain Roberts from sponsors Marine Harvest, Peter Gow from player of the match sponsors www.petergow.co.uk and Women's Camanachd Association President Lisa MacColl.

There was a minute's silence ahead of throw-up as both squads and match officials gathered around the centre circle to remember Skye Camanachd's former player and manager Ally 'Mor' Morrison who passed away the previous day.

Skye attacked from the start and they forced an early corner but Badenoch settled and Kirsty Deans played in Zoe Reid but Skye keeper Sarah-Jane Ferguson saved with her legs.

A good passing move out of the Badenoch defence ended with Rhona McIntyre and Kirsty Deans combining to set up a chance for Megan Ralph but her shot went past the keeper's left post.

Kirsty Deans then drove wide from distance after creating space for the shooting opportunity.

Sara-Jane Ferguson was the busier of the two keepers at this stage and she had to clear her lines on a couple of occasions as Badenoch continued to press.

Skye responded and Lorna MacRae sent a good ball forward from the right of midfield and Sarah Corrigall turned her marker and ran in one-on-one with keeper Elizabeth MacGregor. However, the Scotland goalie was quickly off her line and she saved with her legs.

Kirsty Deans passed up a great



The victorious Badenoch & Strathspey team with the Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup. Photo: Neil Paterson

chance on 17 minutes when she ran onto a clever ball from Zoe Reid but she shot wide.

Sarah-Jane Ferguson made two good saves with her legs in quick succession to keep out Kirsty Deans from the right and Rhona McIntyre from the left.

Skye were forced to replace defender Christina MacDonald with Katherine Dibble on 21 minutes as the game continued at a good pace despite the heat.

Elizabeth MacGregor did well to deny Jenna Beaton after another long ball from Lorna MacRae.

Kirsty Dean made another surging run, this time cutting in from the Badenoch left, but Sarah-Jane Ferguson came off her line to block Deans' shot with her feet.

However, Kirsty Deans did find the net on 30 minutes. Deans saw her initial effort blocked but she jinked left and right to make enough space to fire in a low shot from the left which went across the keeper into the far corner of the net.

Christina MacDonald was able to return on 33 minutes with Katherine Dibble coming back on.

Kirsty Deans was always a threat and she outpaced the Skye defence a couple of minutes later but keeper Sarah-Jane Ferguson saved comfortably.

Lorna MacRae shot wide from 25 yards out with the final attempt of the first half and Badenoch deservedly took their 1-0 lead into the break.

During the interval, the crowd were entertained by a shinty exhibition from four development teams.

Lorna MacRae ran through at the start of the second half, playing a one-two with Sarah Corrigall, but

Elizabeth MacGregor saved well with her hand.

Play switched to the other end and Sarah-Jane Ferguson made a good stop with her stick to keep out Kirsty Deans' drive from the left.

Roma Fraser had to come off on 50 minutes to get a cut leg attended to

but she returned to the field seven minutes later. Kirsty Deans dropped back into a deeper role to help cover.

However Skye took advantage of

Fraser's absence and Lorna MacRae took a Sarah Corrigall pass at the edge of the D but her back-hand effort went past the post.

A Skye goal was coming and they levelled on 55 minutes when Lorna MacRae scored her 28th goal of the season. The Badenoch defence struggled to clear a Sarah Corrigall ball from the left and MacRae hammered the ball over the keeper and into the net to make it 1-1.

Skye's Jenna Beaton sent a back-hand effort across the keeper but just the wrong side of the post and an under-pressure Badenoch were glad to get Roma Fraser back on.

Sarah-Jane Ferguson made a save with her feet from Kirsty Deans on 62 minutes before swiping the rising ball away for a corner with her stick.

Lorna MacRae then sent a Helen Lamond hit-in from the right past the post, hitting the bouncing ball on the half-volley.

Elizabeth MacGregor cleared a couple of dangerous balls into the D and Sarah-Jane Ferguson won a race for the ball with Kirsty Deans as both goalies continued to star.

Kirsty Deans then sent a dipping effort just over the top.

The next goal was always going to be crucial and Zoe Reid got it on 71 minutes. Kirsty Deans won posses-

sion and saw an initial shot saved but Zoe Reid was on hand to turn the ball low into the net to make it 2-1. Time was running out for Skye who threw everything at Badenoch and both Abby MacLean and Ilana Paterson were now on.

Badenoch picked the islanders off and, with Rona Stewart urging her team on from full centre, Rhona McIntyre made it 3-1 on 79 minutes, turning Kirsty Deans' low ball from the right into the net from close range.

Zoe Reid got her second in stoppage time to seal the win as she lost her marker and rammed home a rebound after Sarah-Jane Ferguson had made another save from Kirsty Deans.

With a couple of minutes stoppage time added to the regulation 80 minutes, referee Des McNulty, who was in control throughout, brought the final to an end.

The Badenoch forwards took their chances up front and their defence, particularly Roma Fraser marking Lorna MacRae, had a good afternoon.

Both keepers were on top form but it was Badenoch's Kirsty Deans who was named player of the match and her influence was undeniable.

All that was left was for Badenoch captain Mairi Stewart to come forward and receive her presentation caman and the Marine Harvest Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup from Marine Harvest's Steve Bracken and the celebrations began.

The sides are still battling it out for the Marine Harvest National Division 1 title and although Skye have a four-point lead, Badenoch have a game in hand with the sides still to meet in Portree.



Badenoch captain Mairi Stewart with the Valerie Fraser Cup.  
Photo: Neil Paterson



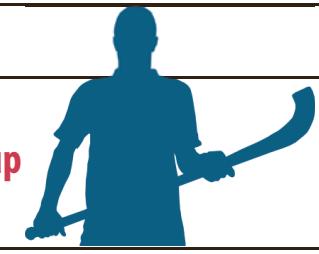
Badenoch's Kirsty Deans received the Player of the Match award from Peter Gow. Photo: Neil Paterson.

Camanachd Cup  
Macaulay Cup

MacTavish Cup  
Celtic Society Cup

Sutherland Cup  
Balliemore Cup

Strathdearn Cup  
Bullough Cup



# nals take centre stage

## Marine Harvest Challenge Cup - final

Inverness 3

Glenurquhart 4

Glenurquhart and Inverness met in the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup final which was a 1.45pm throw-up at the Dell on Saturday September 1.

Glenurquhart had comfortable wins over Cowal & Bute and the Ardnamurchan second team on their way to the semi-finals where they edged out Lovat 4-3.

Inverness beat Oban Lorn and the Lochaber second team 3-1 before beating the Skye Camanachd second team in the semi-finals.

The Glen, who top Marine Harvest North Division 2, went into the final as favourites against an Inverness side who were second bottom in the division.

Katie McMillan gave Inverness a four-minute lead when she forced home a rebound after Glen goalie Laura Stoddart had made a save.

But Abi Stoddart netted on 18 and 22 minutes to turn the final Glenurquhart's way.

Abi Stoddart completed her hat-trick on 26 minutes before Katie McMillan got her second a couple of minutes later to make it 3-2 at the break.

Referee Tina Marshall, who had a fine match, awarded the Glen a 50-minute penalty when Hazel Hunter was brought down inside the D. Hunter picked herself up to score from the spot to make it 4-2.

Katie McMillan completed her hat-trick on 54 minutes when she ran on to a low corner, hitting the ball first time and giving the keeper no time to react but the Glen stayed in front to seal a 4-3 win.

Inverness keeper Caitlin Mutch made some great saves during the game, earning the player of the match accolade.

Glen captain Siobhan Thomson was presented with the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup.

## Men's shiny Caol Cup - U21 representative match

North U21 1

South U21 1

(after extra-time - North won 4-2 on penalties)

The North U21 came out on top following a penalty shoot-out in the annual Caol Cup clash against South U21 at Craigard on Saturday September 1.

The Caol Cup was not played last year with North victorious in 2015 and 2016.

A good-sized crowd gathered for the game and both South manager



Glenurquhart were winners of the Marine Harvest Challenge Cup.

Photo: Neil Paterson



Glenurquhart captain Siobhan Thompson with the Challenge Cup. Photo: Neil Paterson

Kenny Wotherspoon and his North counterpart Norman MacArthur selected strong squads for this 1pm throw-up, naming players with premiership and national league experience.

The North made a late change with Innes Blackhall replacing Craig Ritchie whilst the South's Connor Howe passed a fitness test after suffering a hamstring injury.

Howe's afternoon only lasted 15 minutes when he had to be replaced by Glasgow Mid Argyll's Calum McLay after a recurrence of the hamstring problem.

The fact the first half remained goalless was mainly down to some great saves from Inveraray keeper Scott MacLachlan, who continued his good form into the second period.

It was South full centre Jonnie MacAskill who opened the scoring just after the hour. Daniel MacVicar

did well down the right and he played a ball to the back post. There was a scramble with a lot of bodies around the penalty spot and the ball broke to Jonnie MacAskill, who had pushed forward, and he scored.

The North had switched Blair Morrison from defence to attack and he was involved in the equalising goal which came with only three

minutes remaining. Morrison ran into the box with the ball and with keeper Scott MacLachlan coming off his line, Findlay MacDonald saw a shot blocked before he turned home the rebound to make it 1-1 with the South claiming for offside.

With no further scoring, referee John Wood took the contest to an extra-time period but with neither side able to score again, the outcome was decided by a penalty shoot-out.

Fraser Watt went first for the South and he scored with the North's Blair Morrison doing like-wise. Ross MacMillan made it 2-1 and when the North's Will Cowie missed, Daniel MacCuish had the chance to make it 3-1 but his effort went over the bar. Alexander Michie, Savio Genini and Findlay MacDonald then all netted for the North and with the South's Ross MacRae and Daniel MacVicar seeing their penalties saved by Shane Gillies, the North won the shoot-out 4-2 and their skipper Blair Morrison lifted the trophy.

As well as keeper Scott MacLachlan, Ross MacMillan played very well in the South defence with Andy MacDonald, Michael MacKinnon and 16-year-old Daniel Sloss also doing well for a South side which only loses a couple of players ahead of next year's rematch.

Blair Morrison, Calum Grant and Innes Blackhall caught the eye for the North and Scotland U21 manager Allan MacRae will certainly have a headache as he tries to whittle the pool of players down to a final squad ahead of the international against Ireland.

South U21 from: Scott MacLachlan (Inveraray); Andy MacDonald (Oban Celtic), Daniel Sloss (Oban Camanachd), Michael MacKinnon (Oban Celtic), Ross MacMillan (Oban Celtic) (captain); Ruairidh Graham (Inveraray), Jonnie MacAskill (Glasgow Mid Argyll), Daniel MacCuish (Oban Camanachd); Daniel MacVicar

(Oban Camanachd), Fraser Watt (Inveraray), Connor Howe (Oban Camanachd), Scott MacDonald (Kyles Athletic); subs: Calum McLay (Glasgow Mid Argyll), Arik MacKechnie (Glenorchy), Cian MacPhee (Ballachulish), Ross MacRae, (Kyles Athletic), Ross Montgomery (Inveraray)

Manager - Kenny Wotherspoon

Assistant - Les Kinvig

North U21 from: Shane Gillies (Kilmallie); Robert Mabon (Kingussie), Rory MacKeachan (Kingussie), Calum Grant (Kingussie), Blair Morrison (Caberfeidh) (captain): Innes Blackhall (Kilmallie), Danny Kelly (Lovat), Savio Genini (Kingussie), John Gillies (Skye Camanachd), Calum MacDougall (Kilmallie), Findlay MacDonald (Lochaber), Will Cowie (Skye Camanachd); subs: Alexander MacMillan (Fort William), Alexander Michie (Kingussie), Roddy Young (Kingussie), James Pringle (Skye Camanachd), Ruairidh Anderson (Kingussie)

Manager – Norman MacArthur  
Assistant – Stevie Borthwick

## Marine Harvest North 2

Caberfeidh 10

Lewis Camanachd 2

The Caberfeidh second team beat an under-strength Lewis Camanachd 10-2 at Castle Leod.

Stuart Krzyzanowski on seven minutes and David Mellis on 35 minutes scored the only goals of the first half as Cabers led 2-0 at the break.

The hosts scored four times in six minutes as Stuart Krzyzanowski took his tally to four goals with efforts on 50, 52 and 56 minutes, punctured by a David Mellis goal on 51 minutes, and Caberfeidh now led 6-0.

Ally Lamont pulled a Lewis goal back on 65 minutes but Declan Wilson netted on 76 minutes to make it 7-1.

Continued on page 62

## Fixtures

### Saturday September 8 Premiership

Kyles Athletic v Oban Cam - Noon  
Newtonmore v Kinlochshiel - Noon  
Lochaber v Kingussie - 3pm  
Caberfeidh v Lovat - 3pm  
Glenurquhart v Skye



## Results

### Saturday September 1

**Marine Harvest**  
**North Division Two**  
Caberfeidh 10 v 2 Lewis  
Kilmallie 1 v 6 Lochaber  
Strathglass 2 v 3 Boleskine  
Strathspey P v P Lochcarron  
Due to bereavement

**Marine Harvest**  
**South Division Two**  
Glasgow Mid Argyll 1 v 1 Bute

**Caol Cup**  
**Under 21**  
**representative match**  
North 1 v 1 South  
North won 4-2 on penalties

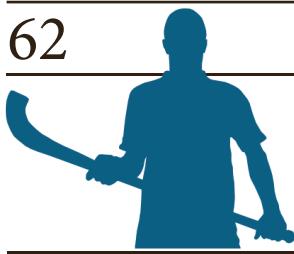
**Women's Camanachd Association**

**Marine Harvest**  
**Valerie Fraser Camanachd Cup**  
Skye 1 v 4 Badenoch & Strathspey

**Women's Cup Finals Day Challenge Cup**  
Inverness 3 v 4 Glenurquhart

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Throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated



# SHINTY NEWS

Best for all shinty news, results and fixtures

**Continued from page 61**

Michael MacDonald made it 7-2 with 10 minutes remaining but James MacLeod on 86 minutes, a fifth from Stuart Krzyzanowski on 88 minutes and James MacLeod on the stroke of full-time took Cabers into double figures.

## Kilmallie 1 Lochaber 6

The Lochaber reserves overcame the Kilmallie reserves 6-1 at the Canal Parks.

Aiden Love scored the Kilmallie goal but Ben Delaney and five-goal Lachlan Campbell gave Lochaber victory.

## Strathglass 2 Boleskine 3

Boleskine came from behind to beat the Strathglass colts 3-2 at Cannich.

Boleskine took the lead on four minutes when Duncan MacPherson scored.

However, just a couple of minutes later, Colin Birnie drew the hosts level.

Raymond Fraser gave Strathglass a 2-1 interval lead when he netted a couple of minutes before the break.

Boleskine's James Anderson made it 2-2 just eight minutes after the restart.

The winning goal came on 72 minutes when Boleskine's Stuart MacRae made it 3-2.

## Strathspey Camanachd P Lochcarron P

The 1.30pm throw up between Strathspey Camanachd and Lochcarron at Grantown Grammar School will be rescheduled as west coast shinty mourned the passing Skye Camanachd stalwart Ally 'Mor' Morrison.

## Marine Harvest South Division 2

### Glasgow Mid Argyll 1

#### Bute 1

The Glasgow Mid Argyll second team and the Bute second team drew 1-1 at Yoker.

Former Skye Camanachd player John Angus Gillies gave GMA the lead just four minutes into the second half. But Bute travelled with a strong squad and Ryan Craig's goal 10 minutes from time ensured a deserved share of the points.

## Jack Mathieson Trophy

### Glenorchy 0

#### Taynuilt 0

(Glenorchy won 2-1 on penalties)

Glenorchy won the Jack Mathieson Trophy, beating Taynuilt 4-2 on penalties at Mart Park in a game which was part of the Dalmally Show.

This hard-fought match finished goalless and was eventually decided on penalties.

Glenorchy won the shoot-out 2-1 with their keeper Andrew Smith making four saves and Scott



The winning North squad pictured with the Caol Cup along with coaches Stevie Borthwick and Norman MacArthur. Photo: Stephen Lawson

MacIntyre converting the decisive penalty.

## Youth Shinty MacMaster Cup – semi-finals

Fort William U14 and Beauly U14 will meet in the MacMaster Cup Final at Mossfield on Saturday September 15 following the semi-final ties.

### Fort William U14 6 Caberfeidh U14 1

Fort William U14 were 6-1 winners against Caberfeidh U14 in their last four tie at Blairbeg.

Cameron Stephen gave the Fort an early lead and Leah Maxtone made it 2-0 at the break.

A good finish from Jack Kearney made it 3-0 and the same player added a fourth before substitute Max Kelly and another from Cameron Stephen completed Fort William's scoring.

Kai MacAulay netted for Cabers.

### Beauly U14 4 Lochaber U14 0

Beauly U14 defeated Lochaber U14 4-0 in their semi-final at The Eilan.

Callum MacIver gave Beauly an early lead and a rehearsed free-hit led to a Euan McCormick making it 2-0.

Lochaber fought back but a Beauly counter-attack saw Euan McCormick and Callum MacIver combine to set up Rory MacColl who made it 3-0 at the break.

Euan McCormick's pass then sent Michael Brindle on a solo run and he sealed the 4-0 victory.

## Skye Camanachd delight as Fearann Eilean Iarmain gesture honours Sir Iain Noble

Skye Camanachd were this week toasting Fearann Eilean Iarmain, who have gifted ownership of the



The South team with coaches Kenny Wotherspoon and Les Kinzig. Photo: Stephen Lawson

Pairc nan Laoch pitch to the island club in honour of Sir Iain Noble.

Skye Camanachd already owns the Skye Camanachd Clubhouse and previously leased the surrounding land, including their shinty pitch.

Shinty on Skye is thriving with seven teams playing out of the impressive facility and securing ownership of the associated land is a massive boost to the club's future plans.

Sir Iain Noble was one of Scotland's most far-sighted entrepreneurs and, at the heart of everything he did, Sir Iain was a passionate and active advocate of Gaelic.

In establishing Fearann Eilean Iarmain in 1972, Sir Iain made a commitment to reverse the decline of Gaelic and reinvigorate the local economy, promoting Gaelic through business enterprises in Sleat and creating long term employment and career opportunities in the area.

His significant contribution to Scottish industry and finance began when he established Scotland's first Merchant Bank in Edinburgh, Noble Grossart.

It was both his passion for the Gaelic language and culture and his commitment to its revival both locally and nationally that were his prime objectives, and for which Sir Iain will be best remembered in Skye.

In recognition of his services and contribution to Gaelic language and culture, Sir Iain was awarded the OBE in 1998. He died on December 25 2010, aged 75, and is survived by

numerous volunteers, we are fortunate to have one of the best club facilities in shinty. During this period, we have been tied to a lease but in our heart of hearts, it has always been a yearning desire to secure the future of shinty on Skye by owning the land we play on.

"This approach by Lucilla Noble to gift this asset from Fearann Eilean Iarmain to Skye Camanachd in honour of her late husband, Sir Iain Noble, is beyond our wildest dreams. I'm sure the whole shinty community on Skye will join me in thanking Lucilla for her generosity in allowing us security of tenure thus preserving a strongly held island tradition."

"Sir Iain was passionately committed to Skye; to its language and culture, its history and its future prosperity. Pairc nan Laoch – The Field of Heroes – has a new hero to whom the Skye Camanachd is indebted."

Lucilla Noble said: 'Sir Iain held shinty in high regard and had a great appreciation of the shinty playing tradition and its status in the cultural heritage of Gaelic.'

I am very pleased indeed for Fearann Eilean Iarmain to make this contribution towards securing a strong future for shinty in Skye and I am delighted to gift Pairc nan Laoch to Skye Camanachd in honour of Sir Iain.

"Through Sir Iain's lifelong commitment to the language and culture of Gaelic, his innovative endeavours to ensure Gaelic in education, in the work environment and in the community, and his key contribution to the economic development of Skye, he was an inspirational figure to a younger generation."

"He would be delighted to see the increasing popularity of shinty today, with the high level of skills and the passion of all those involved providing great opportunities for the talented teams of Skye."

"Tha Fearann Eilean Iarmain a' guidhe gach beannachd do Sgioba Camanachd an Eilein airson na bliadhnaichean ri teachd."



Lady Noble shakes hands with Skye Camanachd chairman Douglas MacDougall below a portrait of Sir Iain Noble. They are flanked by Skye Camanachd's committee member Donnie Martin and Marion Gillies, who is involved with Skye Camanachd Ladies.

## Bullough Cup final – preview

Lochside Rovers and the Kyles Athletic's second team contest what should be an exciting Bullough Cup Final at Strachurmore on Saturday September 8.

The sides are also challenging for the Marine Harvest South Division 1 title and Lochside were 1-0 winners in their recent league game at Tighnabruaich. They also beat Kyles 5-0 in this year's Sutherland Cup. Kyles, however, have been very consistent over the season and they currently top the league.

The Bullough Cup was the only trophy to evade Lochside boss Gareth Evans last season, losing to Inveraray in the semi-finals.

After getting a first round bye, Lochside beat Glasgow Mid Argyll and Glenorchy on their way to the final.

Kyles also received a first round bye before getting a quarter-final walk-over when SCOTS Camanachd were unable to raise a team. Kyles went on to see off Strachur in the last four of the competition.

Lochside's Connor Howe is an injury doubt as he nurses a hamstring problem whilst youngster Lennon Campbell is suspended.

Kyles Athletic will look to Brandon Wilson and Luke Thornton to be amongst the goals whilst youngster Jack Whyte is one for the future.

Throw up is at 3pm and Graham Fisher is the match official.

## £8,000 Gaelic youth shinty boost announced

Iomain Cholmcille has announced £8,000 funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig in order to help develop the use of Gaelic in youth shinty.

This funding, which comes from the Bòrd's Taic Fhreumhan Coimhearsnachd fund for community projects, will help build on Iomain Cholmcille's successful work, in partnership with the Highland Council's Gaelic Team, running the Cupa Iomain na h-Òige, Gaelic Primary Schools Cup.

The Cupa, which is open to all Gaelic medium schools and units in Scotland, will be held at the Bught Park in Inverness on Friday September 28.

Iomain Cholmcille coordinator in Scotland Eòghan Stewart said: 'We ran Cupa Iomain na h-Òige as a pilot two years ago and it was so successful that we decided to expand what we were doing with the youths. Therefore this funding will be put to effective use for creating and developing playing and training opportunities in Gaelic. We aim to run a range of activities with Gaelic-speaking coaches and referees for children at all ages.'

## Strathdearn Cup final – preview

The Newtonmore second team has the chance to add the Strathdearn Cup to the Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup and Marine Harvest North Division 1 title won earlier in the season when they play the Fort William second team in the final at the Bught Park on Saturday September 8.

Newtonmore have been on a terrific run, winning their last 13 consecutive matches. However, Fort William will take confidence from the fact that they are the only team to have beaten 'More this season as Mark Fraser and two Greg Kelly strikes gave them a 3-0 league win at The Eilan in May.

Fort William beat Inverness, Glenurquhart and Skye on their way to the final whilst Newtonmore got past Lovat, Strathspey Camanachd and Kingussie.

Fort William haven't lost since Newtonmore beat them in the Sutherland semi-finals in early July. Youngsters Greig Kelly and Grant Disher provide their goal threat.

Stuart Mitchell is solid in the Newtonmore defence whilst Calum Stewart has been their danger-man in recent games, scoring four goals in their 5-2 extra-time win over their Kingussie counterparts in their recent Sutherland Cup Final win.

Throw up in Inverness is at 3pm and Steven MacLachlan is the match referee.

# A GUARANTEED £2500 MUST BE WON THIS WEEK ONLY

## SPECIAL COMPETITION

As the jackpot has now reached £5000 if no correct entry is received, a one-off prize of £2500 will be offered to the entry nearest the ball. The remaining jackpot of £2500 will be carried over to next week and the competition will continue as normal. No other prizes will be awarded that week. In the event of a tie the prize will be divided equally between the winning entries.

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If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

### Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavulin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

### Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, any prizes will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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SEE PAGE 63 FOR FULL DETAILS \*TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

# Saints turn on the style in excellent Scottish Cup win

Gartcosh United	2
Oban Saints	3
Scottish Cup - 1st round	

Oban Saints renewed acquaintanceship with former Scottish Amateur Football League rivals Gartcosh United at Eastgate, Gartcosh last Saturday where three goals in a scintillating six-minute first half spell saw Saints progress to the second round of the Scottish Amateur Cup.

Having recovered from an early Gary Pettigrew strike Saints were good value for the win over their very useful Central Scottish Amateur Football League opponents despite a stoppage time counter from another old acquaintance, former Pollock striker, Steven Williams.

Craig MacEwan and Ruaridh Horne returned after missing the previous

weekend's trip to Barrhead, however, the pre-match plans of Saints co-managers Donald Campbell and Willie Gemmell were dealt a blow with the 11th hour withdrawal from the squad of Paul Carmichael. Thankfully Dougal Graham, who only narrowly missed out on selection in the first place, answered the call to boost the number in the travelling party to 16. Matthew Kelly missed out through injury but still made the journey to North Lanarkshire to cheer on his team-mates.

Saints kicked off on the immaculately prepared Eastgate playing surface, which must be the envy of the majority of visitors to Gartcosh, however after some early sparring it was United who drew first blood much to the delight of the home support. Gerald O'Connell got the better of James Ford on the Saints left



**Craig MacEwan, No 9, gives Saints the lead against Gartcosh.** Match report and photos: Derek Black

and launched a ball over the top for Ross Mackie to chase. Mackie couldn't find a way past Saints captain Dene Cassells, who knocked the ball behind for a corner kick.

Scott Maitland got his head to Gary Pettigrew's delivery from the right and sent the ball flying across the penalty area and out for a throw-in on the opposite flank. From the throw-in the home side lifted the ball towards the back post for giant striker Ross Mackie, who appeared to head the ball wide of target. However referee Paul Crosbie, much to the frustration of Saints co-manager Donald Campbell who was prowling the touchline, ruled in favour of the home side and pointed to the corner flag.

Gary Pettigrew curled a dipping in-swinger right on

top of Saints keeper Graham Douglas who appeared a fraction slow to adjust his feet and in his attempt to claw the ball over his crossbar could only succeed in helping the ball into the net.

Stung by this seventh minute setback Saints moved straight up the other end from the restart with Craig MacEwan testing Scottish Amateur international goalkeeper Stuart Wilson after good work on the left by James Ford and Lewis Cameron.

The Saints leveller after 13 minutes owed much to good closing down by Jamie Graham, who robbed Gary Pettigrew on the half-way line and played the ball up to Craig MacEwan on the edge of the box. MacEwan slipped in Lewis Cameron who, from a tight angle on the right

of the six-yard box, saw his attempted lob take a slight deflection off a defender sending it spinning beyond the reach of Stuart Wilson and into the far corner of the net.

Saints had their tails up now and Stuart Wilson had to get down well at the feet of Craig MacEwan to cut out a Matt Rippon cutback from the right.

The Saints momentum was building and Scott Maitland got forward in the 18th minute to link up with James Ford. Ford held off the challenge of Gerald O'Connell and laid the ball off to Lewis Cameron in the box. Cameron picked out Craig MacEwan who turned away from Steven McGurgan and steered the ball past Stuart Wilson's left hand to give Saints the lead.

## FOOTBALL

Sixty seconds later Saints added a third with the danger again coming from the Saints left. Scott Maitland, Craig MacEwan and Lewis Cameron were all involved with the ball finding its way to James Ford, who wriggled through the Gartcosh defence and beat Wilson with a low side foot finish to the keeper's left.

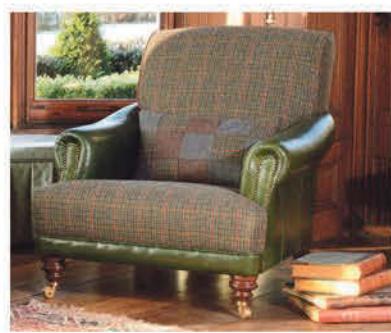
Ford almost doubled his tally as Saints swarmed forward again in the 21st minute but sent his left foot effort

**Continued on page 58**



Willie Gemmell and Daniel Croarkin congratulate Lewis Cameron on his opening goal.

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\*TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

# Wind farm windfall for Spean Bridge area

by Mark Entwistle  
[markentwistle@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:markentwistle@obantimes.co.uk)

The community council for Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achtnacarry is to receive what is believed will be a six-figure sum spread over three years as part of cash being doled out by the energy firm constructing the wind farm at Stronelaig near Fort Augustus.

The SSE renewables development has 66 wind turbines which started generating its first electricity for the National Grid in March.

The company expects the 228 MW wind park to be completed next year.

Those attending Tuesday night's meeting of Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achtnacarry Community Council heard chairman John Fotheringham confirm the good news.

"The money will be open to bids from all individuals and organisations throughout the community council area,"

said Mr Fotheringham. "We did ask if the funds would have to be administered by our SCIO [Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation]. However, SSE did offer to administer the scheme but with a panel of local residents which would be the sole arbiter of who gets the money."

"So we would be looking eventually for a number of residents to represent us."

As well as Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achtnacarry, other community councils to benefit are those covering Laggan, Invergarry and Fort Augustus.

Mr Fotheringham added that once SSE made its formal announcement publicly confirming the sums involved, a series of roadshows would be held around the various areas to inform residents about the community benefit scheme.

The community benefit which will be paid is mainly due to the disruption which

Continued on page two



Former Royal Navy clearance diver Ginge Fullen, dressed in historical diving gear, led a team of charity trekkers to the summit of Ben Nevis this week to raise money for various charities. IF F36-DIVER ON BEN PI

## Divers trek from sea to Ben Nevis summit for charity

A team of divers has raised more than £5,000 after members took it in turns to trek to the summit of Ben Nevis this week while dressed in a heavy historical diving suit.

The 'Sub Sea to Summit' challenge was created by Ginge Fullen, a former Royal Navy clearance diver, and saw the challenge begin in the cold depths of Loch Linnhe at Fort William at the weekend.

See our special feature on pages 10 and 11.

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LT

## First decade of BBC ALBA

A motion celebrating the 10th anniversary of BBC ALBA has been lodged with Scottish Parliament officials by Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron.

The motion notes the work of MG ALBA and the BBC, the principal partners of BBC ALBA, and the fact that since its inception more than £160million has been invested into producing Gaelic language content.

Mr Cameron said the recent commitment by BBC ALBA and the other major Celtic broadcasters to invest more in original content was a perfect way to celebrate 10 years of this 'fantastic' public service broadcaster. 'The fact BBC ALBA accounts for around 50 per cent of independently-produced hours for audiences in Scotland should be welcomed,' he said.

'I am encouraged by the optimism shown by MG ALBA and its continued investment in Gaelic media. I would encourage all readers to get in touch with their local MSP and ask them to sign my motion so that we can properly recognise this landmark achievement.'

# Future of Fort William to be discussed with public

A consultation aimed at discussing the future of Fort William and the wider Lochaber area is to be held next week.

Amid the number of major developments already on-going in the area, Lochaber residents have been invited to attend a FW2040 consultation event, jointly organised by Highlands and Islands Enterprise,

Scottish Government and the Highland Council. To help plan for the changes, a draft masterplan is being prepared, called Fort William 2040, or FW2040, which will detail the ways in which the town and wider area can best take advantage of these developments.

Taking place next Wednesday, September 12, at the Nevis Centre, the

event will involve workshops between 10am and 4pm and an evening session starting at 7pm when participants will be asked to contribute to finalising a vision for the future of Fort William and agree how it will be delivered.

A Highland Council spokesperson said: 'There are a number of changes on the horizon in Fort William ranging from investment in

the former smelter, relocation of the Belford Hospital and new industrial and housing development. To help plan for these changes a draft masterplan is being prepared – showing how the town and the wider Lochaber area could best take advantage of these developments.

'We would like local people, businesses and interest groups and public agencies

to work together in finalising this masterplan.'

Topics for discussion will include where or when development takes place, the supporting infrastructure improvements that are needed and who might need to be involved in implementing proposals. Visit the Highland Council website to find out more, or phone 01463 702276 to confirm attendance.



Lochaber Schools' Pipe Band after their final summer performance in Cameron Square.



Megan Campbell and Amber MacDonald were presented with a certificate by head teacher Scott Steele at the band's final summer street performance last Thursday in the town.



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## Band wraps up summer season

Lochaber Schools' Pipe Band (LSPB) played its final street performance of the 2018 summer season last Thursday.

Lochaber High School head teacher Scott Steele presented certificates to the band's leavers this year, Megan Campbell and Amber MacDonald. Both have played with the band for six years and each was given a personalised photo book in

recognition of their commitment and dedication. Rhian Daly, S6, was this year's winner of the June Standen shield for dress and bearing.

The draw for the band's fundraising raffle also took place.

Pipe band tutor Margaret McMaster said: 'Thanks to everyone who bought and sold tickets. Our street

parades and activities are needed to raise the necessary funds to meet the running costs of the band and enable us to offer free membership, instruments and tuition to those wishing to join the band.'

Summer 2018 has been a busy time for the band which saw them perform in Belgium and Luxembourg in July.

## Spean Bridge area windfall confirmed

**Continued from page one**  
has been caused [by the transportation of turbine components],' explained Mr Fotheringham.

'And it might well be that in the first year we get a bit more than in the subsequent two years as a way of catching up as they are now finished with the turbine deliveries.'

'Also, if the money paid in the first year is not all spent within that year it can be rolled over for the following year. This is a major opportunity for us all and for all local organisations.'

The only two classes of groups barred from bidding for the grants are religious groups and those involved in rival electricity generation projects,

says Mr Fotheringham. Meanwhile the same meeting on Tuesday night saw an agreement for senior Highland Council ward manager for Lochaber, Dot Ferguson, to be approached to act as a neutral intermediary to help resolve a disagreement over community benefit being paid from hydro electricity generation schemes on Loch Arkaig.

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council believes it, as the community council for the Achnacarry area, or its SCIO, should have been in receipt of any community benefit paid as a result of the projects, which would then be distributed across the entire area.

However, the money has

been paid to the Achnacarry, Bunarkaig and Clunes community group (ABC Group) – also a SCIO but not a community council.

It was Highland councillor Ben Thompson (Ind, Caol and Mallaig) who suggested Mrs Ferguson be invited to assist in the matter.

Mr Thompson was worried any dispute flaring up in public between the community council and the ABC Group might cause problems for the payment of community benefit.

'My concern is that the developer might decide not to pay anyone as a result and therefore I'd recommend Dot Ferguson as an independent intermediary to act as a neutral party,' he said.

## Town welcomes back cruise ship

Fort William Marina and Shoreline Company is delighted to be welcoming the cruise ship MV Astoria back to Fort William this weekend.

The 550-guest ship made her maiden call at Fort William in May earlier this year but returns to Loch Linnhe on Saturday, September 9, for a night before departing on Sunday. Passengers will be given the chance to explore Fort William and the surrounding area before setting sail for their next port of call. MV Astoria will arrive in port from 8pm on Saturday until 5pm the next day in the usual anchoring location just off Fort William.

# No surprise at 'tragic' A82 accident figures

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
[nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:nfinlayson@obantimes.co.uk)

The head of a Lochaber campaign group has again called for 'urgent investment' on the A82 after new Transport Scotland figures reveal the full extent of casualties on the road.

Stewart MacLean, chairman of the A82 Partnership, said he was saddened but not sur-

prised by the recent collision figures for the Inverness to Glasgow route which revealed there were 33 deaths and 146 bad crashes on the road in the last five years.

'These figures don't come as a surprise to us at all,' Mr MacLean said. 'We are constantly monitoring the road and are fully aware of the tragedy of the situation. It highlights again the compete

inadequacy of the road for 2018.'

The new figures, released by Transport Scotland under freedom of information laws, show traffic accidents in which there were injuries spanning from April 2013 to March this year. The injuries were classed as slight, serious or fatal.

One of the most dangerous sections of road was shown to be at Corrychurachan by Loch Linnhe which saw 11 accidents, while the turn-off at Corran Ferry was the most dangerous junction on the A82 with four incidents in five years.

In Fort William and Inverlochy there were 13 reported incidents, while the area west of Spean Bridge experienced six road collisions since April 2013.

The figures also highlighted a number of blackspots close

to the Glencoe Ski Resort. Mr MacLean continued: 'The road must be playing a big part in those figures. We have written to the new transport minister Michael Matheson highlighting the urgency for significant investment while at the same time appreciating the investments that will soon be made on Loch Lomond side in particular.'

Design work is on-going for a section of road to be upgraded between Tarbet and Inverarnan with preparation of draft orders expected later in 2018. A new sign was installed at Urquhart Castle and there has been work at Corrychurachan in recent years.

A Transport Scotland spokesperson said: 'Road safety is of paramount importance to the Scottish Government. We assess the safety performance of the

trunk road network annually, which includes the A82.

'The latest statistics show casualties on Scotland's roads are at the lowest levels since records began. This is of little consolation to friends and relatives of people who have tragically died on our road network. There is more that we can do, and will do, to ensure no-one is killed on Scotland's roads.'

Official figures released earlier this year showed 146 people were killed in reported road accidents in Scotland in 2017, 45 fewer than in 2016.

'Through continued education, engineering and appropriate enforcement by partners, we can bring about a revolution in road safety as we continue to work towards the objectives set out in Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2020,' added the spokesperson.



Fort William Football Club directors, left to right, John Bamber, Colin Wood, Michael MacKinnon and Sam Lees. Not in photograph: William Edwards.

IF36 Fort directors 01. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, the Write Image.

## Fort FC unveils new directors

Fort William FC welcomed three new directors to the board this week as the club continues to re-build its background operation.

The club announced Colin Wood, Samuel Lees and William Edwards have joined the board after long-serving committee members, secretary Marie MacMillan and treasurer Alex McNab stepped down from their roles.

It has been a challenging fortnight for the club after being docked nine points by the Highland League for fielding an ineligible

player and suffering several heavy defeats. However, the new committee hopes to continue the rebuilding process this season, which has already borne fruit as the team picked up their first point of the season last Wednesday. Match report on page 56.

The board is holding a public meeting this Sunday, September 9, at 8pm at the clubhouse at Claggan Park.

Anyone with an interest in the future of the club is urged to attend.

## Ten arrested on drink driving offences

Ten motorists - six men and four women - were arrested on drink driving offences over the weekend in Police Scotland's Highland and Islands Division area, prompting officers to remind drivers about being responsible on the roads.

Reports will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Road Policing Inspector Neil Lumsden commented: 'We regularly issue advice

against the dangers of drinking and driving and it is disappointing to see this message is still not getting through to some drivers.

'Drinking under the influence of alcohol will significantly impair your ability to drive and react to unexpected changes in road conditions.'

If you drink and drive, you risk endangering the safety of yourself and others and will also likely face prose-

cution where you could be disqualified from driving for a minimum of 12 months and have a criminal record.

'If you are planning on drinking alcohol, plan how you are getting home and don't drive. Also remember you may still be over the limit the morning after drinking. Anyone with concerns about a suspected drink or drug driver is urged to contact 101 or 999 in an emergency.'

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## Motorists face 19-mile diversion

Motorists face a 19-mile diversion on the A82 after BEAR Scotland announced provisional plans to close a section of the road between Invergarry and Fort Augustus for 12 days.

From Monday October 1 to Friday October 12 the road will be fully closed (excluding Saturdays and Sundays) from 8am to 5pm to carry out maintenance.

The diversion will add 19 miles to the Fort William to Inverness journey – an extra 30 minutes.

Outwith these hours, traffic management will be removed, however, a 30mph speed limit will remain in place, as traffic will be travelling over a temporary road surface.

BEAR Scotland welcomes comments on these proposals prior to Monday September 17 to plan the works to limit disruption.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
email us at [fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)

# Privatisation an option for Corran Ferry link

by Mark Entwistle  
[mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk)

Privatisation is one of the options being considered when it comes to the future of the Corran Ferry link.

That and other options to ensure the sustainability of the lifeline service were discussed by members of the Highland Council's Lochaber wards last week.

The Scottish Government is currently exploring the option of potentially introducing a fixed link at Corran Ferry – the busiest single route ferry link in Scotland – under the Transport Scotland Strategic Transport Review.

The draft of the Corran Ferry Service Options Appraisal discussed by local councillors was compiled by private consultants Peter Brett Associates.

The report looks at all the



One option for the future of the Corran Ferry could be privatisation, councillors heard last week.

options available to ensure the sustainability of the service over the next 20 to 30 years.

These include sticking with the current set up; transferring responsibility to Transport Scotland or a

total overhaul of the current infrastructure allowing for the existing vessels to berth at night, thus increasing safety for crew members.

Councillors accepted a proposal to further examine the options.

The Scottish Government's Ferries Plan 2013-2022 states the government is willing to take on responsibility for local authority lifeline ferry services, subject to the principles set out in the plan.

These principles included there being no net financial detriment to the Scottish Government.

There will be further discussions about the appraisal at Highland Council's Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee in November.

Lochaber Area Committee chairman Councillor Andrew Baxter, Independent, Fort William and Ardnamurchan, said at long last, the local authority had recognised the need for an in-depth study into the future of the Corran Ferry, clearly stating the advantages and disadvantages of each option.

'This report is in marked

contrast to what we usually receive in Lochaber, which was a demand to increase ferry fares again,' Mr Baxter told the Lochaber Times this week.

'No final decision has been taken. We need to discuss in detail with Transport Scotland whether it is viable for the ferry to be transferred to the government.

'I suspect this isn't feasible because of the impact it will have on fares, seeing local people face increased charges because of the current RET [Road Equivalent Tariff] rules.'

'At the same time, we need to do a proper assessment as to whether a bridge is a long-term solution.'

'I've urged council officers to carry on with that work. If it is possible, we shouldn't lose a moment in making the case to central government for funding.'

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# Lochaber Housing closer to solving wall staining

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber Housing Association (LHA) says it is getting closer to solving the problem of dark staining on exterior walls of some of its properties on the Plantation estate, Fort William.

The organisation was responding to queries by the Lochaber Times as to how work to tackle the problem was progressing.

The update from LHA followed our report last week of a meeting when two dozen fed-up Plantation estate residents met with local councillor Andrew Baxter to discuss the stained walls and other issues of concern.

LHA, together with private owners and Highland Council, successfully accessed Community Energy Saving Programme funding to apply external wall insula-

tion to the properties in 2013.

But a number of properties have since developed ugly dark staining to their outside walls.

In December 2017, LHA told the Lochaber Times it planned to tackle the problem of stained walls at some of the properties it owns on the estate following the New Year.

But other non-LHA residents say they have had no success in getting any remedial action to resolve the problems.

Asked how work was progressing on finding a solution for its own properties on the estate, Sean Doherty, LHA's head of asset management, said: 'There is not an issue with the wall cladding in the Plantation. The issue is with algae growth on the surface of the render which we are experiencing on most of our properties in Lochaber.'

'We can't power wash as you



Homes in the Plantation's Henderson Row have suffered from the staining problems.

would normally due to the construction of the external wall insulation. We have applied different products on different areas to assess what

product gives the best result. With some of the products, it takes three to six months to have full impact. We have also had an external consultant

give guidance on the best way forward with algae growth and removal. Once we have this information, we will start with the best-suited product.'

## Fort fines dodger pays up after wages seized

### Court service steps up efforts to recover money

enforcement officers issued a Bank Arrestment Order and the £420 was fully paid.

Freezing bank accounts or arresting wages are among a number of measures available to the Scottish Courts and Tribunals Service (SCTS) for recovering unpaid fines.

Other enforcement measures include clamping vehicles, taking money directly from benefits and arresting non-payers travelling through ports and airports.

A new report released by SCTS reveals the fines collection rate remains consistently strong. It shows 87 per cent of the value of sheriff court fines imposed between April 1 2014 and March 31 2017 has either been paid or is on track to be paid – a rise of one per cent compared with the figure at April 10 2018.

The man was fined £450 at Oban Sheriff Court for drink driving and paid £30 but failed to settle the outstanding amount. Fines

be paid by instalments.

SCTS chief operations officer David Fraser said: 'The fines enforcement teams continue to be highly effective in securing unpaid fines. Ignoring your fine and not speaking to an enforcement officer if you are having difficulty paying is very unwise.'

'Failure to pay, or to engage with our officers, will result in strong sanctions being taken including arrestment of wages, bank accounts, your car being clamped or inconvenience and embarrassment by being arrested when travelling abroad.'

In all cases, offenders have opportunities to make payment of their fines at a reasonable and affordable instalment rate. All defaulters are issued with warnings before action is taken.

Those in genuine financial difficulty can engage with enforcement officers to discuss payment terms.

### Volunteers step up to save fèis

Fears Fèis Lochabair may not return in 2019 have been allayed after the appointment of a new committee last week.

It was announced last Tuesday a new committee was in place for the coming year following a public meeting. After the final concert at last month's festival, the Fèis Lochabair committee warned there would be no event next year if no new volunteers came forward. Fèis chairwoman Deirdre Beck stepped down from the role after 15 years.

### Steer clear of derelict sites

Police in Lochaber are appealing to youths and their parents in Fort William to be aware of the hazards of entering disused and derelict buildings.

In particular, youths have been entering the former St Mary's Primary School on Fassifern Road, Fort William.

This particular building contains asbestos which has the potential to cause serious health issues.

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# Councillors move on transport study

by Mark Entwistle  
markentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber councillors have agreed to ask Scotland's transport minister Michael Matheson MSP for Transport Scotland to take the lead on the first stage of an appraisal for the Fort William Strategic Transport Study and to complete it within six months.

Members of the Lochaber Area Committee last week approved the submission of a joint letter from the partner organisations (Highland Council, Hitrans - Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership - and Highlands and Islands Enterprise) on the matter.

Fort William, a town of 10,300, with many more times this number of people visiting during the year, has significant transport problems. Journey times are variable and roads are affect-



**Highland Council agrees Fort William has significant transport problems that need tackled.**

ed by seasonal congestion and vulnerable to road closures and delays as a result of traffic collisions or roadworks.

The public transport network is limited with poor bus accessibility and declining services and limited rail

network connections. The Strategic Transport Study (Pre-Appraisal) commissioned by the partners focussed on establishing evidence for problems and issues linked to transport in a specific area or corridor and

identifying opportunities and constraints in the future and influence the development of solutions. The council says significant engagement with local communities has taken place to date.

Chairman of Lochaber Area Committee Councillor Andrew Baxter, Independent, Fort William and Ardnamurchan, said: 'Fort William is an increasingly popular tourist destination and we have huge potential for broadening our economic growth in the future. Our transport network is crucial to this,' he commented.

Chairman of Hitrans, Councillor Allan Henderson, Independent, Caol and Mallaig, added: 'I would like to thank everyone involved in the pre-appraisal and bringing the report to this stage and I welcome the input from members of the public. This is a huge step forward.'

## VIEW FROM The Chamber

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce represents businesses throughout Lochaber with a focus on encouraging economic growth, job creation and promoting Lochaber as a great place to live, work, study and visit.

Joining your local chamber of commerce is a great way to make local business connections and develop your business. As a new member, you have the opportunity to hold a business showcase event that lets you introduce what you do to your fellow members and meet new contacts. As well as your own event, it's a fantastic benefit to come along to events at other member businesses.

Next week sees the latest in our 'behind the scenes' business showcase events with a site tour and buffet lunch at Marine Harvest, in the company of new director of communications Ian Roberts.

These events provide a fascinating opportunity to find out more about what really goes on behind the scenes in key local businesses as well as a great chance for members to get together and enjoy a relaxed lunch and networking.



There's still time to sign up for next Thursday's business showcase – simply join the chamber online and you'll have access to all our events, as well as member support and promotion and HR, legal advice, among lots of other benefits. Last month's visit to The Underwater Centre was a huge success, with members impressed by the facilities and range of training and testing from international companies taking place just off the shore in Loch Linnhe.

Lochaber Chamber of Commerce's unique calendar of member-only events provides rare access behind the scenes and a fantastic opportunity for businesses of all types to make connections.

Join Lochaber Chamber of Commerce today and take the opportunity to promote what you do and increase your business network. Call us on 01397 705 765 or visit [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk).

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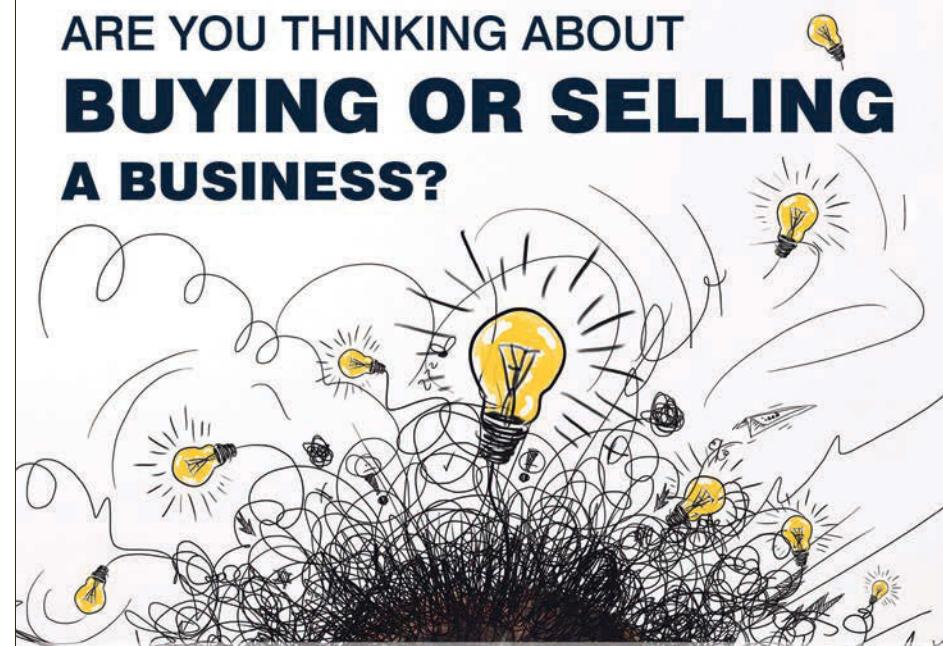
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## What's on in Lochaber

Lochaber Local History Society welcomes back historian Iain Rose, who will talk on Living in the Highlands 1740 at 8pm on Thursday September 6, at the Ben Nevis Hotel. Everyone welcome. Iain will offer a picture of life in Fort William nearly 300 years ago.

**Kilmallie Singers starts its new season on Thursday September 6 in Kilmallie Church of Scotland Hall, Caol, at 8pm. A brief annual general meeting will be followed by a sing-a-long led by conductor Catherine Cameron. New members welcome.**

As part of World Suicide Prevention Day a 'walk in memory' will be held on Sunday September 9 from Caol Community Centre at noon. After, free tea and coffee will be served at the centre. There will also be a bouncy castle, raffle and stalls with helpful information about suicide prevention.

The topic at the next meeting of Fort William Photographic Society is Problem Pictures. Using members' photos, experienced photographer Keith Thorburn will explain how to improve images using Photoshop. The meeting is at 7pm in the Salvation Army hall on Tuesday September 11.

A Bus Users' Group meeting will take place on Friday September 14 at 11.30am at Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church Hall, Fort William.

**Part two of Lochaber Sensory Care's annual general meeting is being held in Fort William on Saturday September 15 in the Alexandra Hotel from 2pm until 4pm.**

Lochaber Sports Association is hosting its annual general meeting on Wednesday September 26 at 6.30pm at Lochaber Rugby Club, Banavie.

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# Skye firm to design new Fort cinema

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
neillbofinlayson@obtimes.co.uk

A Skye-based architect's firm has been appointed to design the new cinema in Fort William with a proposed opening date of summer 2020.

Dualchas Architects will design a new two-screen cinema building, incorporating a café bar, in the heart of the town in Cameron Square.

The cinema project has been developed by Moidart entrepreneur Angus MacDonald, who bought the former Studio Cinemas, currently used by retailer DV8, last month with a plan to demolish the current building and replace it with a state-of-the-art cinema.

Mr MacDonald said: 'We are delighted to have appointed Dualchas as architects.'

'Their reputation in selecting fantastic local building materials and their contem-

porary twist on Highland traditional building styles was very appealing to us. They have already produced a beautiful design concept which is being developed prior to it being presented to the local community.'

Dualchas director Neil Stephen said he hoped to make Cameron Square the focal point of the town, as it once was. The current building replaced the old Fort William Town Hall, which burned down in 1975, and comprised a two-screen cinema and a tourist office.

Studio Cinemas eventually closed in 2006 and two years later the building was bought by Northern Irish fashion retailer DV8.

Mr Stephen explained that although Fort William was billed as the Outdoor Capital of the UK, indoor recreational amenities were needed.

Identical twins Alasdair



The current building on Cameron Square.

and Neil Stephen founded Dualchas from a desire to help halt the population decline of the Highlands and have been spearheading what they call 'Highland's renaissance architecture' for 21 years.

Having been initially inspired by traditional black-houses of the Highlands, Dualchas Architects has won critical acclaim for its projects across Skye and the region.

The proposed opening date for the new cinema is summer 2020, with an expectation that 10 full-time equivalent jobs will be created. Initial proposals will be on public display from 11am to 7pm from Wednesday October 3 to Friday October 5 at the current building in Cameron Square. Mr MacDonald will be present to discuss all aspects of the project.



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# Delight at number of flower and produce show entries



All the trophy winners from this year's show.

Nether Lochaber Flower and Produce Show took place last week with a good number of entries, especially from junior growers and florists.

From knitting and handicrafts to flower baskets and garden vegetables, this year's produce show had plenty to offer as members of the public browsed the various entries on display at Nether Lochaber Village Hall.

Organiser Marie Ann Cameron said: 'It was lovely to see some new names and we hope they will continue to support the show in 2019.'

Prizewinners: Home baking: Most points, Onich Hotel Cup, Sandra Cameron.

Runner up in points, Lodge on the Loch cup, Elaine Cameron.

Showstopper shield, Cameron Memorial Shield, Sandra Cameron.

Produce: MacKintosh Corran Cup, Sandra Cameron and Jill Morrow.

Knitting: Corran Bar Trophy, Sandra Shaw.

Handicrafts: Camus na gaul Cup, Jennifer Jarl.

Floral decoration: Marjorie Summers Trophy, Liz Ross.

Floral: Most points, Gleaner Oil Cup, Jessie Maclean and Harrison Wyatt.

Runner up: Old Manse Trophy, Alex Cameron.

Garden produce: Old School Cup, Jill Morrow.

Most points overall in show: Nether Lochaber Community Council Rose Bowl, Alex Cameron. Runner-up: Callart Quaich, Jill Morrow.

Best entry in show: George Ross Memorial Cup, Liz Ross for rhubarb.

Children's winner of 2019 front cover: Nicola Grieve.



Alex Cameron, winner of the Nether Lochaber Community Council Rosebowl for most overall points in show.



Above: Jessie MacLean and Harrison Wyatt.



Left: Katie MacIntyre with her floral entry.

All photographs: alba.photos



A delighted Nicola Grieve, who designed the winning cover for next year's show programme.



Four-year-old Archie Rodger with his winning entry in the children's craft competition.

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## 'Prayers and pipes' gets rosary walkers up Ben Nevis

'Between the prayers and the pipes, we got ourselves to the top and it was a fantastic day and great effort by everyone involved.'

So said Ruth Black, of Craig Lodge Family House of Prayer at Dalmally, after the successful climb of Ben Nevis on Sunday which involved a continuous rosary to the summit of the 4,413ft peak.

And by the start of this week, more than £8,221 of the £10,000 target had been raised, with funds going to support the running of Craig Lodge.

Led by 85-year-old Calum MacFarlane-Barrow, who founded the Craig Lodge

Family House of Prayer with his wife Mary Anne 30 years ago in 1988, the walk saw 14 hardy trekkers take part.

Formerly run as their family guest house, Craig Lodge is now a Catholic retreat centre run by Craig Lodge Community.

It offers a varied programme of organised retreats, as well as a special 'spiritual gap year' programme for young people aged from 18 to 30.

Craig Lodge also welcomes guests who just want to enjoy a quiet few days of prayer and reflection and there is a programme of events tailored to families and young children.

Mrs Black, Mr MacFarlane-

Barrow's daughter, was one of those who made the climb to the summit of Ben Nevis on Sunday and says there had been a great atmosphere as the walkers made their way up the famous mountain.

'It went really well and we had a piper with us who piped at various view points along the way,' said Mrs Black.

'The rosary is a Catholic prayer and is one of dad's favourites and it was spoken in relays, either by individuals or in small groups, continuously, as we made the climb.'

'It was very encouraging when you would hear it just ahead of you and it would encourage you to keep going.'

'We are all grateful to everyone who has donated sponsorship money for the event. People have been very generous.'



Calum MacFarlane-Barrow led the party of walkers to the mountain summit on Sunday.



Left to right: Faye Steel, past president Donald McCorkindale and president Marga Radermacher.

## Rotary Club welcomes German contingent

Lochaber Rotary Club welcomed guests from Germany to its business meeting last week.

President Margarete Radermacher and five colleagues and partners from the Wipperfürth-Lindlar/Romerike Berge Rotary Club near Cologne, enjoyed an evening meal.

The club was also joined by Faye Steel, widow of Charlie Steel, one of the club's founding members in 1949.

In addressing the club, Marga explained the short history of her club and the sort of activities it has been involved in. Its biggest forthcoming project will be to host an international student summer camp next August, an annual event that moves around the country.

In Lochaber, the German contingent visited Glenfinnan, Ben Nevis Distillery, the Commando Memorial, Glen Nevis, the

West Highland Museum and Inverlochy Castle. They travelled on the Jacobite steam train, visited Armadale Castle and were based at Lochalsh.

On Skye they walked part of Glen Sligachan and visited Portree and Dunvegan Castle.

Past president Donald McCorkindale, who chaired the evening meeting, said: 'Last week we welcomed a new member to Lochaber Rotary Club and in doing so were reminded we belong to an international fellowship. Today that is very real as we welcome Faye from Canada and fellow Rotarians from Germany.'

After a hearty welcome and tour of Lochaber, the German visitors headed east to Inverness, visiting Culloden,

Clava Cairns and Cairngorm Mountain. After staying in Pitlochry, they visited the Wallace Monument and the Falkirk Wheel.



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# Sub sea to summit success



Ginge Fullen with a poster for the event. IF F36 DIVERS GINGE FULLEN 09



One of the team enjoys a pint in Garrison West. IF F36 DIVERS GARRISON WEST 08

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team and the family of the former Thai Navy diver who died during the recent rescue of a football team and their coach trapped in flooded caves in Thailand are two of the charities to benefit from more than £5,000 raised from this week's unique sea to summit fund-raising challenge.

It involved a team of divers who took it in turns to trek to the summit of Ben Nevis dressed in a heavy historical diving suit weighing 80kgs.

The Sub Sea to Summit challenge was created by Ginge Fullen, a former Royal Navy clearance diver who has combined a career in diving with climbing the highest mountains in more than 170 countries.

The Royal Navy used the heavy standard diving dress, manufactured by Seibe Gorman, for underwater work during and after the Second World War prior to the introduction of more

## Marathon effort wearing historical heavy diving suit

modern equipment. Today the suit's iconic diving helmet remains the image for its branch badge on uniforms.

As well as Lochaber's mountain rescue team and the family of Thai diver Saman Kunan, funds raised will also help the Historical Diving Society (HDS).

The relay team of eight comprised Royal Navy divers and civilian volunteers who started the challenge in Loch Linnhe on Saturday morning with a dive to a depth of five metres (16ft).

The team was supported by staff from Fort William's Underwater Centre, which trains divers from all over the world and provided Ginge and his colleagues with

full-board accommodation throughout the challenge.

The team had expected it to take around five days to scale the famous 1,345m peak, but actually made the summit shortly after 1pm on Monday.

One of those involved was Paul Guiver, who told the Lochaber Times the team was extremely grateful for the support it had received while in Lochaber.

'The day before we reached the summit [Sunday] we had got up to 1,040m and halted there and left the gear with three members of the team overnight,' he said.

'We then went back up on the Monday and reached the summit.

'It just so happened that the



The sight of a 1930s-style diver crossing the road caused a bit of a stir in Fort William. IF F36 DIVERS CROSSING ROAD 03

person wearing the suit when we got to the summit was Meghan Haigh, who is only the second female to qualify as a Royal Navy clearance diver. She qualified last year.'

There was a number of 'floating' volunteers who joined the trek at various points to experience for themselves what it was like to clamber up Britain's highest mountain wearing such heavy equipment, including

Sarah Macleod, wife of the Underwater Centre's Ali Macleod.

'We are delighted with the success of the challenge. The support we received from everyone at the Underwater Centre was absolutely fantastic. We are so grateful for their generosity,' added Mr Guiver.

The charity challenge was dreamed up by Ginge and the HDS' Ty Burton.

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Ginge Fullen, front right, and Royal Navy clearance diver Meghan Haigh, in diving suit, and the rest of the group after reaching the summit of Ben Nevis on Monday afternoon.

The Historical Diving Society working group keeps standard diving and historical diving equipment working and being used in a practical environment, instead of just on display in a museum.

The society was formed in 1990 by a group of enthusiasts whose aim is to preserve and protect diving heritage and to advance the education and interest of the public and interested parties in the study of the history of diving.

All photographs by Iain Ferguson, The Write Image, with the exception of images from summit and along Ben Nevis paths which were contributed by the event team.



One of the event organisers, Ginge Fullen, takes a break at the 'Sair Feet' statue in Fort William. IF F36 DIVERS END OF WEST HIGHLAND WAY 05



The team behind the challenge. IF F36 DIVING TEAM 13

Right: Organisers of the Sub Sea to Summit event Ginge Fullen, right, and Paul Guiver, left, presented a plaque to Tim Acton, who was one of the divers involved in the recent Thailand cave rescue and suffered an injury. Tim will be returning to Thailand shortly and will give the plaque to the Thai Diving Rescue team.

IF F36 DIVERS THAILAND PLAQUE 12



Ty Burton emerges from Loch Linnhe. IF F36 Ty Burton emerges from Loch Linnhe 01

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## New benefit for carers in Highlands

Carers across the Highlands will receive their first Carer's Allowance Supplement from mid-September, back-dated to April.

This new benefit will be paid twice a year by Social Security Scotland, the first major new public service to be created since devolution.

Eligible carers will get a supplementary payment of £221, equivalent of an extra £8.50 per week, an increase of 13 per cent on carer's allowance from the Department of Work and Pensions.

The Carer's Allowance Supplement is worth more than £30 million a year and will benefit 2,673 carers in the Highlands.

Carers will receive letters from Social Security Scotland from the week beginning Monday September 10 so they know in advance to expect a payment.

Kate Forbes, MSP for Lochaber, said: 'Carers are some of the most selfless people in society and deserve recognition and financial support.'

# Skye ferry welcomes first female skipper

## Izzy, 21, lands dream job on last sea-going turntable vessel

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

From the moment she first set foot aboard the Glenelg to Skye ferry, Isabelle Law dreamed of one day being its skipper.

And now, aged just 21, Isabelle, or 'Izzy' as she is known, has just become the first female captain of the world's last sea-going manually-operated turntable ferry.

The MV Glenachulish operates from Easter to October and can carry six cars from Glenelg to Kylerhea on Skye.

From the age of 10, Isabelle worked summer jobs across the 50-year-old ferry in the hope of one day qualifying to become its skipper.

The current service has been



Aged just 21, Isabelle Law has become the first female skipper of the Glenelg to Skye Ferry. Photograph: MacTV

run by a community-owned company since 2007 after long-time ferryman Roddy MacLeod retired. Portree native Isabelle says she realised she wanted to help to keep the ferry service going while working on board during



Isabelle Law has worked on the ferry since she was 10. Photograph: Eamonn McCabe.

school holidays. She told the Lochaber Times: 'I started on the ferry at the age of 10 when I had to get something from Glenelg. From that day on, I would spend all my spare time on the ferry, I enjoyed it so much. At 16, I started

on the rope and then at 20 I started my training to be skipper. From the age of 10 I knew my dream was to be the skipper of this ferry one day.'

'I had to get hours of wheel time and being aboard the vessel, then go to Oban and

Glasgow and do fire fighting at sea, first aid and sea survival tickets. Then there were practical and theory exams.'

'The ferry is just incredible. For it to be the only turntable vessel left in the world is unbelievable and I want to help keep her going.'

Isabelle says no two journeys on the ferry are the same and that she gets to meet some 'amazing' people.

'It's hard to describe but I just love it. There has been mostly surprised reactions from the passengers, positive, but they wonder why I want to do it.'

'I'm not sure what the future will hold, but at the moment I am very happy just to live in Skye and be on the MV Glenachulish.'

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## Entrepreneurs can get pitch perfect

Entrepreneurs from the Western Isles are being given the chance to get pitch perfect.

Business leaders will develop and hone their business pitches thanks to workshops organised by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

The free pitching skills workshop takes place in Stornoway on Wednesday September 19.

Delivered by Maryanne Johnston, who has provided pitching and presentation skills training to entrepreneurs and employees from start-up to large, established corporates, it is hoped to give them the tools to communicate effectively when under pressure.

Ms Johnston commented: 'The basic principles of pitching are all the same. I think it's a life skill everyone needs, whatever your business sector or position.'

Entrepreneurs, or staff, of growing companies and social enterprises or those with ambition to scale that are interested in attending the one-day workshops should sign up at <http://hie.social/GElA30k8EDZ>

# Transport heritage centre a step closer thanks to trust

Western Isles Transport Preservation Group is celebrating a major milestone in its plans to transform the old fish factory at Marybank.

It has been awarded a certificate from building control for the first phase of the work, with the help of Point and Sandwick Trust.

The building, formerly owned by McConnells, was bought by the group in 2010 with the hope of turning it into a transport heritage centre for the Western Isles.

Plans have been drawn up for the transformation of the whole building but they are so extensive and costly the group decided to tackle the project in phases.

However, it ran out of time and money when initial improvements were still needed and planners would not extend the building warrant. That's when community wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust came to the

group's aid with a grant of more than £7,000.

Now group members are looking forward to hosting public social evenings after building control signed off on phase one which involves the creation of office space, a public meeting area, cafeteria, a kitchen and toilets.

Chairman James Macleod said the donation from Point and Sandwick Trust allowed the group to buy heaters, install a hearing loop and intercom, improve the kitchen and cafeteria and install fire alarms.

Mr Macleod added: 'The assistance from Point and Sandwick got us over the threshold to get the building finished and we are very, very grateful to them for coming to our rescue.'

Donald John MacSween, general manager of Point and Sandwick Trust, said the trust was more than happy to help Western Isles Transport



Group chairman James Macleod with one of the historic vehicles in the collection.

make a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund and others. The group also hopes to buy a MacBrayne's bus it has been offered - refurbished and in working order - if it can raise enough money.

The building is already a treasure trove of old vehicles and other artefacts with interesting stories behind them.

## Man, 53, injured in fall from Broadford Pier

A man was airlifted to hospital in Glasgow after he fell from Broadford Pier.

Police, coastguard, ambulance and fire brigade personnel on Skye rushed to the scene at 4pm on Thursday August 30.

The 53-year-old was recovered from the water and was airlifted to Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, where he is being treated for his injuries.

Portree police sergeant David Canning said: 'Our thoughts are with the family and friends of this man who has been involved in an unfortunate accident. I would also extend our thanks to the public for their quick thinking in helping to recover the man and providing medical assistance. Our enquiries are on-going to establish the full circumstances and I would ask anyone with information who has not yet spoken to an officer to get in touch.'

Information can be passed to Portree police station on 101, quoting incident number NP3504/18.

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# Event puts focus on access issues

by Neill Bo Finlayson  
neillbofinlayson@obantimes.co.uk

Skye and Lochalsh Access Panel has thanked the Skye councillors who took part in a wheelchair awareness day.

The event was organised to show how difficult it can be to carry out everyday tasks when there are barriers to access.

Councillors sat in wheelchairs for a day and performed tasks including going to the post office, going to the medical centre, using an accessible toilet and shopping in a supermarket.

Each councillor was allocated one type of transport method which they had to stick to during the day.

The councillors recognised how some people seemed to see wheelchair users in a different light. They commented on how bumpy, uneven and



**Skye councillors and Skye and Lochalsh Access Panel members in Portree.**

narrow pavements were, how low they felt to the ground, how vulnerable they felt and how difficult it was to negotiate ramps, doors and roads.

At the end of the day, the councillors heard from wheelchair users about how they felt excluded within their community.

James Greer of Skye and Lochalsh Access Panel explained: 'If a wheelchair user has just one bad experience when they are out and about it can dent their confidence and make them reluctant to leave home again. Unfortunately, the needs of disabled people seem so often an ad hoc after-

thought by those designing new buildings and those providing services. If they were considered at the start, things would be independently accessible for not only disabled people but others such as parents with young children in push chairs, people temporarily disabled and older people.'

One of the councillors who took part, John Finlayson, said it was a valuable experience. 'It was an eye-opening experience and made clear the challenges wheelchair users face on a daily basis,' he said. 'I am sure all the councillors who took part will now have a better understanding of how access issues impact on wheelchair users and this should help us support Skye and Lochalsh Access Panel better. I thank the organisers and supporters for making the day such an informative experience.'



Maree Todd, left, and Kate Forbes with the donations.

## Food bank donations flood in following MSPs' appeal

Two Highland MSPs have thanked the public after an overwhelming amount of food bank items came into their constituency office.

Following a recent appeal to help stock up supplies at the Highland Food Bank, Kate Forbes MSP and Maree Todd MSP made their Dingwall office a drop-off point for donations.

Earlier in the summer it was reported stores of emergency food parcels for the Highlands were at their lowest levels for

a decade. Ms Forbes said: 'I remain alarmed at the number of children receiving food parcels from the food bank is up more than 50 per cent on last year. But we are grateful for the likes of Blythswood Care which is making a huge difference in so many lives.'

Blythswood Care's PR and marketing manager Danny Muschate said: 'We are grateful to our MSPs for their support. Special thanks to everyone who responded to our summer food appeal.'

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## Call for urgent action on cystic fibrosis drug

A call for a deal to be struck to allow cystic fibrosis sufferers across Scotland access to 'life-saving drug' Orkambi through the NHS has been made by Lochaber MP Ian Blackford.

It is now more than 1,000 days since Orkambi was licensed throughout the United Kingdom.

However, provider Vertex Pharmaceuticals has so far priced the Scottish NHS out of making the drug readily available.

Following a meeting with Orkambi campaigner and cystic fibrosis sufferer Hannah Mcdiarmid, Ian Blackford MP has written to new Health Secretary Jeane Freeman MSP to ask what progress has been made to push Vertex to make an affordable offer to the Scottish Medicines Consortium.

Commenting after meeting with the MP, Hannah Mcdiarmid said: 'We've already been waiting for far too long for this drug and waiting any longer could mean it's too late for some of us, including myself.'

# Dawn performance draws crowd



Norwegian artist Caroline Bergvall performing Ragadawn, complemented by the soprano voice of Peye Chen.



More than 100 people enjoyed the performance.

More than 100 people welcomed the rise of a new day together last Saturday morning, August 25, with a sunrise performance by the internationally-renowned Norwegian artist, writer and performer Caroline Bergvall.

Performed on the roof terrace of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, overlooking the Sound of Sleat towards the Knoydart Peninsula and the lights of Mallaig, Ragadawn (An t-Eilean Sgitheanach, 57.5°T) was brought to Skye by visual arts organisation ATLAS Arts.

In collaboration with Gaelic speakers on the island, Caroline devised a powerful piece which took the audience on a sonic journey as the sun rose. Her spoken word composition was complemented by the soprano voice of Peye Chen and languages from across Europe, including Gaelic recorded on Skye.

Following the performance, the audience meandered to the college

## Poetry, language and song on college roof

dining hall for a breakfast of porridge and kedgeree, seaweed bread and warming tea and coffee – using locally-sourced ingredients and Scottish suppliers.

Caroline said: 'I will remember the remoteness, the weather, the extraordinary landscape and changing skies, the physical demands setting up the work in these conditions, the audience who made it for 5am, the bond I felt between the work and the landscape and the strong connection with ATLAS Arts throughout our two years' work to make this happen.'

'This is so far the first performance of Ragadawn where so many 'at risk' languages were featured and where Gaelic speakers could be heard prominently throughout the work. It was very moving to be in a

place where Gaelic is actively spoken.'

The performance made quite an impression on the audience with one person describing it as an 'inspirational event'.

ATLAS director Emma Nicolson was impressed by how the work drew people together: 'We were thrilled to see so many people get up early to welcome the dawn together and we couldn't have asked for a more unique setting than the rooftop of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO).

'Watching the sky transition from dark to light, combined with Caroline's mix of poetry, language and song created an extremely atmospheric way to waken the mind and body. The event took a lot of planning and we are extremely grateful to the many people who helped, especially staff at SMO.'

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**Saturday 8 September | Disathairne 8 Sultain**  
An Gearasdan - Caol Community Centre - Fort William @ 8pm

**Stòras**

A concert of Argyll Songs performed by Oban Gaelic Choir and Guests including Finlay Wells, Archie McAllister & Lorne MacDougall

**Tuesday 11 September | Dimàirt 11 Sultain**  
Glengarry Community Hall - Invergarry @ 7.30pm

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**Friday 14 September | Dihaoine 14 Sultain**  
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## Body pulled from Loch Dunvegan

The body of a pensioner was recovered from Loch Dunvegan on Saturday afternoon, following an alert from members of the public.

Police were notified of an unmanned fishing boat off the pier at Loch Dunvegan at 1.30pm. Emergency services searched the area but at 3.10pm the body of the 68-year-old man was recovered from near the fishing boat. Police say there are no suspicious circumstances and family have requested their privacy be respected.

## Sun fish spotted in Skye waters

A fish normally found in tropical waters has been spotted in the waters around Skye and Ardnamurchan.

The ocean sunfish was spotted last Friday by the crew of a fishing boat off the north coast of Skye. A sunfish was also seen off Ardnamurchan on Wednesday.

It is the fourth time this year the sunfish, which drift with ocean currents, has been recorded by the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust.

# 'Historic milestone' as Gaelic school opens

The official opening of the new £8.7m Gaelic primary school at Portree this week has been hailed as a 'historic Highland milestone' by Skye MSP Kate Forbes.

Ms Forbes welcomed Deputy First Minister John Swinney to Skye as he officially opened Bun Sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Righ (Portree Gaelic Primary School) on Monday morning.

The school has been open for pupils and staff since April. It is Scotland's fifth dedicated Gaelic school and the third standalone Gaelic medium school in Highland region.

The school currently has 133 primary pupils and 47 in the nursery, with capacity to expand over future years.

Mr Swinney said it had been a pleasure to be involved in supporting Highland Council realise its vision for the Gaelic language are having a positive result,' he said at the opening ceremony.

'I commend Highland Council for its actions and

'We are seeing growing demand from parents for access to Gaelic medium education across the country which clearly demonstrates the Scottish Government's commitments to supporting the language are having a positive result,' he said at the opening ceremony.

'I commend Highland Council for its actions and



From left: Rose MacKinnon, John Swinney, Kate Forbes and Carmen MacAskill at the opening of the new school. Mr Swinney was presented with a shinty stick from pupils at the school during the official opening ceremony. Rose and Carmen are in primary seven.

look forward to working with it on future projects.'

Ms Forbes MSP added:

'This is a historic milestone in the Highlands and Islands

as we celebrate the opening of Portree Gaelic Primary School.

'I'm amazed it has taken until 2018 to open a Gaelic

medium primary in the heart of the Gaelteachd.

Gaelic is going through a bit of a revival, but it has a long and rich heritage in Skye. There are many people for whom it is their mother tongue, the language of choice from birth and it's important the language is passed down the generations.

The new school significantly expands opportunities for young people in Skye and Lochalsh.'

Councillor Alister MacKinnon, Highland Council's budget leader, chairman of Gaelic implementation and strategy group and chairman of corporate resources, said: 'Bun-Sgoil Ghàidhlig Phort Righ is a great asset for the community which gives young people and their families the opportunity to access their learning in an all-Gaelic environment.'



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# LETTERS

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or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

## Investment is key to improving A82 safety

The article on page three concerning the shocking collision figures for the A82 will come as no surprise to the many people in and around Fort William who travel on the road regularly.

One of the most dangerous sections of road is at Corrychurachan by Loch Linnhe which saw 11 accidents, while the turn-off at Corran Ferry was the most dangerous junction on the A82 with four incidents in five years.

In Fort William and Inverlochy there were 13 reported incidents, while west of Spean Bridge there have been six road collisions since April 2013.

The figures also highlighted a number of blackspots close to the Glencoe Ski Resort.

While the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland have made some inroads into improving infrastructure, they have not gone far enough.

This is a major arterial route and the simple fact is the road is not fit for purpose – and people are dying or being seriously injured on it as a result.

While driver education, including enforcement by traffic police is part of the long-term solution, another key factor has to be long-term and significant investment to upgrade the road and improve safety.

While it is welcome that accident figures in 2017 were down on 2016 statistics, to ensure those figures continue to be driven down, upgrading the A82 must be part of the long-term plan.

The editor welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. However we reserve the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime phone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact phone number will not be printed.

Please email: [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk) or write to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001.

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For press freedom with responsibility

## Safety system is required urgently at Connel Bridge

Before an Australian driver crosses a major low bridge, he must first pass under a horizontal beam that emits a loud noise if his load is too high. If he ignores the racket, he does so at his peril.

Is it beyond the wit of our road engineers to rig up something similar for Connel Bridge where dangerous, expensive and disruptive incidents are becoming all too common?

As a secondary issue, it should surely be a matter of routine to allocate a policeman to point duty at the bridge junction when major tailbacks occur.

Currently when the bridge is re-opened after an incident, north-bound traffic gets automatic priority and, until it clears, all south-bound traffic remains gridlocked – most recently for anything up to a further half hour.

**Andrew McIntyre,  
Barcaldine.**

## Rabbits seem to like the new plastic 'grass'

The new 'grass' at Oban Retail Park may be fake but the rabbit droppings are real and they like doing their business all over the new shiny plastic turf outside the new Marks and Spencer Foodhall. Which begs the question: does rabbit poo biodegrade through plastic or does it just vanish?

**Stephen Jones,  
Burnside Place, Mill Park, Oban.**

## Council should publish attendance records

Could I suggest as a cost-saving measure that Argyll and Bute Council introduces legislation or an attendance page on its website in line with many other local authorities?

The council needs to publish attendance records of our councillors in an easy format via a web page so voters can make an informed choice based on the past performance of incumbents. Some council meetings are rubber-stamping exercises and a councillor can still do a good job without attending them.

In line with other councils, a monitoring officer could be appointed and could consider whether to launch a petition for a councillor to resign if he or she has, over the municipal year, an overall attendance below 40 per cent, attended less than two full council or community committee meetings, been convicted of a crime or moved outside the elected area.

If such a petition was set up, going by my calculations more than 33 per cent of elected councillors in the council would have to sign for a by-election to be triggered. In effect, we are wasting at least 33 percent of the council's councillor budget expenses for the period from April 1, 2017, to March 31, 2018.

There are more ways to save money than budget cuts to the most vulnerable and in-

### GET IN TOUCH

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## YOUR PICTURES



We know our readers love to take photographs so we are happy to create this space to showcase people's images each week. If you have a photograph you would like to see published here,

simply send it to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk), post it to The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB or hand it in to our offices in Crannog Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, or in High Street,

## Moving ceremony recalls the fallen from Islay

I was proud to be in the village of Portnahaven on Islay to attend the ceremony to mark the 100th anniversary of the actions at Henin and Fontaine-Les-Croisilles, France (August 24 and 27, 1918) and the award of the Victoria Cross to temporary lieutenant David Lowe MacIntyre, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 1/6 Battalion Highland Light Infantry.

There was the unveiling of the commemorative stone and prayers remembering those killed or wounded in the war, especially during the actions at Henin and Fontaine-Les-Croisilles.

It was great to be joined at the event by Argyll and Bute Armed Forces Champion Councillor Barbara Morgan and the convener of the cross-party group in the Scottish Parliament on armed forces and veterans community, Maurice Corry MSP.

We also had a chance to visit the Museum of Islay Life and see the Stars and Stripes flag produced overnight on Islay so that the American soldiers who died after the sinking of the SS

# DISTRICT NEWS

## PLOCKTON

Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club's season ended on Saturday with centreboards and local boats racing for the Islay MacRae Jubilee Vase.

Five local boats and five centreboards raced in light winds, with the eventual winner Tristan Southall in his centreboard Aquila.

He beat local boat Coruisk, sailed by David Hay, by eight seconds, with Ian Hay aboard Seolta in third.

Tristan's victory means centreboards have won the event four years in a row.

The event also doubled up as the final races for the visitors' cup (local boats) and the St Kilda cup (centreboards).

Hay won the visitors' cup with five points; second was Morag Amos aboard Eala Bhanon with 13 points and in third spot was Hay with 17 points.

The St Kilda cup was won by Lauren Glasgow (Fantas) with 11 points with Southall second with 15 points.

The cups were presented at a social evening in the club boathouse after the race.

Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club raised £305.22 for the RNLI during its sailing season.

The annual Mackenzie Cup football competition between Plockton and Kyle primary schools was held at Plockton on August 24.

For the first time in eight years, Plockton won with the final scoreline 8-0.

Star player was Bodhan Hendry who found the back of the net five times.

The recipient of this year's Dux Award at Plockton High School was Arran MacDonald.

Arran left the school with eight Highers at Grade A and four Advanced Highers.

He has been awarded a scholarship to spend a year at Tianjin University studying Mandarin, after which he will take up his place at Edinburgh University.

Plockton High School recently welcomed new teacher of English Lyndsay Arkley at the start of the new term. Mrs Arkley previously worked at Dingwall Academy.

## INVERROY

Congratulations to John Shirley, of Inverroy, who recently won the over-65 class in the Cross Country Mountain Bike British Championship. Prior to the British event, retired doctor Shirley competed in Andorra where he was placed eighth in the world.



**Left to right:** Steve Gannon, nursery parent and volunteer, Joe Griffin, director of early learning and childcare, and Cameron Sprague, Stramash team leader. IF F36 Stramash tour 02



**Cameron Sprague, left, leads the tour of the Stramash premises.** IF F36 Stramash tour 01

## ARDNAMURCHAN

On Thursday August 23, nearly all of the S1-S3 pupils went on a trip to Smirrisy to view the village which is famous locally for having been deserted following WWI.

The event was part of a Three Lochs Book Festival project which will involve a drama presentation by pupils.

The weather stayed dry and everyone enjoyed the walk and the interesting facts shared.

## MALLAIG

Mallaig Harbour Authority is gearing up to celebrate its 50th birthday.

The group's chairman and board members have invited residents to Mallaig and Morar Community Centre on the afternoon of Friday September 14 to mark the milestone.

A buffet and light refreshments will be

## Stramash team shows off nursery

Stramash nursery in Fort William welcomed the Scottish Government's director of early learning and childcare to its base at the former BA Club for a tour of the outdoor learning centre.

Joe Griffin was shown round Stramash's sprawling premises, which includes outdoor equipment, to learn what the team do in a day as well as discussing the growing importance of outdoor learning.

Stramash team leader Cameron Sprague explained: 'A massive part of Joe's remit is to ensure quality for children is at the heart of the expansion to 1,140 hours of funded early learning by 2020.'

'Joe approached Stramash as he wanted to see our innovative learning environment and get a feel for our place and community-based approach to early years in action.'

'We were delighted a few nursery parents and colleagues from Highland Council joined us to discuss outdoor learning and the place it has for children across our country in the future.'

The nursery team were particularly pleased with Joe's comment in their visitors' book that read: 'Thanks a million - just awesome. A real inspiration to us working in government.'

available from 12.45pm with a photographic display created by Mallaig Heritage Centre and the harbour authority and other memorabilia on show.

There will also be the chance to discuss future harbour developments with board members, past and present, harbour engineers and employees. Local businesses will also attend the occasion which is open to the public.

## SPEAN BRIDGE

Police in Lochaber are appealing for information after an attempt was made to break into a collection box at the Commando Memorial near Spean Bridge.

The lock on the box, which raises funds for the upkeep of the site, was damaged but nothing was stolen.

The damage was discovered on Tuesday August 28 and is believed to have occurred in

the past two weeks. Constable Brian Heriot said: 'This is a particularly disrespectful act given the location of this collection box and what the funds are used for.'

'We would urge anyone who saw anything suspicious or has information which could help us to get in touch as soon as possible.'

Anyone with information should contact police in Fort William on 101, quoting reference NP3483/18, or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

## STORNOWAY

Community landowner the Stornoway Trust and community wind farm charity Point and Sandwick Trust have come together to form an interim joint committee to award grants to projects using money generated by Beinn Ghrideag Wind Farm.

The fund, derived from the wind farm's community benefit agreement with the Stornoway Trust, will be administered by the joint committee and will focus on creating and supporting projects across the Stornoway Trust Estate.

The new projects fund has been opened with a transfer of £82,000 to Stornoway Trust from Point and Sandwick.

This will be supplemented in the future by annual payments of around £40,000 from the profits of the wind farm which began generating in 2015.

Stornoway Trust chairman Norman A Maciver said: 'By working together, we hope future recipients of the fund will realise and value the benefits partnership working can bring to our community.'

Point and Sandwick Trust general manager Donald John MacSween added: 'We are delighted to be working with Stornoway Trust in setting up this new fund. We feel very positive about this new partnership and thank the factor and trustees of Stornoway Trust for working with us to get the fund established.'

Point and Sandwick Trust chairman Norman Mackenzie added: 'The creation of this joint projects fund is a positive development and shows how community organisations can work together to make a difference for their communities, particularly in these times of restricted public funding.'

'I look forward to working with Stornoway Trust colleagues and delivering exciting new projects in the future.'

For further information and how to apply for funding, interested parties should contact Stornoway Trust at [enquiries@stornoway-trust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stornoway-trust.org.uk)

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## Firefighters tackle Fort car blaze

Firefighters and police were called to Cromarty Crescent, Fort William, last Wednesday afternoon after reports of a car alight. Police Scotland say the incident was a matter for the fire service. Photograph: Iain Ferguson. The Write Image.

## Comhairle 'tentative' over £3.5m ferry fund

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles Council) has tentatively welcomed the recent announcement of £3.5m to be invested by the Scottish Government to reduce the risk of vessels breaking down and to return them to service quicker if they do.

Uisdean Robertson, chairman of the comhairle's transportation and infrastructure committee, said: 'Our discussions with the previous transport minister confirmed that Transport Scotland was working with both Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd and CalMac Ferries to identify ways to improve the resilience and reliability of what is obviously an ageing fleet. We are pleased to see some progress is being made.'

The announcement of £3.5m is welcomed.

We await details of how this funding is to be spent but we are aware that not only are an increasing number of vessels in the fleet becoming more expensive and time-consuming to maintain to the necessary standards because of their age, but the availability of parts and, in some cases, the need to manufacture or fabricate them from scratch, is a growing challenge for the operator.

Engineering solutions and a more resilient and reliable supply chain for critical parts will likely form part of the wider strategy and, although we do not envisage it to be affordable within the funding announced, additional spare tonnage for use in the event of disruptions, planned or otherwise, must form part of the solution for the medium to longer terms.'

## Retro Roamer

[fort@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:fort@obantimes.co.uk)

### More Roamerisms from the early 1990s

■ Locals are asked to note that the 'Highland Extravaganza' will not be taking place as advertised. Unfortunately, the organisers have found themselves short of a fair few of the 100 pipers they had hoped would be able to give them 'a blow, a blow' for the occasion.

■ When is the next meeting of Lochaber District Council's Fort William tercentenary sub-committee? Presumably the celebrations are to continue for most of 1991 – or did it all end after the royal visit? Committee members might, for example, look into pedestrianising the High Street.

After all, it was a highly successful experiment when the street was closed to traffic when the Queen was here. The thoroughfare was thronged with 'tourists' and locals and you could tell which ones belonged to the Fort – they kept looking behind them in case there was a car, bus or lorry coming along.

■ 'Oh! You've given me Scottish pound notes,' wailed an agitated lady from the far south, as she checked her change in William Low's. 'Well, you are in Scotland, madam,' came the withering reply.

■ Sharon was waitressing in the Snow Goose Restaurant. She came up to a table occupied by a young couple, one blond, the other, blonde. 'Excuse me, are you finished?' Sharon enquired courteously.

'No, we're Swedish', was the smiling response.

■ 'Black Friday' last week. It rained for the first time since the middle of August. Lochaberites were looking at the raindrops in disbelief.

Still, it gave some folk the chance to air – and wet – their bank umbrellas. Isn't that right, Councillor -----?

■ Joe Gillies' fans will know he stars on a CD of romantic ballads. One of the hits on it is Bonnie Glenfinnan. So try to picture the following scene: Danny and Ian were toiling at Glenfinnan, unloading a lorry.

The midges, of course, were 'coarse'. But the duo had come semi-prepared. Eventually both were seen kitted out with 'stocking masks' to ward off the midge menace. That ploy soon failed miserably, however.

Next thing Ian was buraching about in the cab of the lorry.

'Have you got a CD of Joe Gillies in here?' Ian queried. 'Aye,' replied Danny, 'but what the devil do you want it for just now?' Ian's answer

was subtlety itself. 'Well I figured if we put on Bonnie Glenfinnan and turn up the volume, that's bound to chase the midges away!' It did!

■ Who is Hector McDram? Hector's eight feet tall, kilted and stands to attention outside the Ben Nevis Distillery Visitor Centre. And Hector is the star of the hugely humorous, informative video in the centre's 25-seater cinema. It's claimed Hector was the landscape gardener giant who made Ben Nevis for his footstool. I've had a close look at him and I reckon the eight-footer is an enlarged reproduction of a certain Fort William architect. However, the video version is modelled on a well-kent employee of the BA Factory close by, who occasionally features in this column.

■ Mr Takeshi Taketsuru (note the TT initials!), chairman of Ben Nevis Distillery, spoke in Gaelic in response to the speech by Iain Robertson, chief executive of Highlands and Islands Enterprise, when the visitor centre was opened officially. 'Slainte mhath,' he declared, fervently.

Earlier in the day, Ross San and his staff had been providing the finishing touches for the launch of the visitor centre. And Mr Taketsuru went on to demonstrate his knowledge of local affairs by advising he had checked up on the booking for dinner at a well-known local hotel to ensure it could cater for all the invited guests.

■ It's not only the auction mart that deals with livestock. The paper mill doesn't do too badly in that connection, either. Roe deer, a pheasant or two, guinea pigs and sundry cats and dogs are regular visitors to the Annat premises. Last week there was another nature study aspect. The stretch-wrap machine ground to a halt and after its two huge guard plates were fork-lifted off, there, in the pit over which the machine's motor hangs, was a mouse. A live mouse.

It's only a rumour, though, that production stopped for two days while half the workforce tried to catch it.

Meanwhile, in the dry and warm area next to the extractor fans, two sheep drop in – and then drop off – during the night.

It's getting more like a safari park than a paper mill.

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### Throwers and Dreamers

Following from last week's article, I am very happy to report that Murdo Masterson of Dunbeg achieved yet another great milestone in his heavy athletics career on Saturday (September 1), by winning both the heavy and light hammers at The Braemar Highland Gathering. It is believed, as with many of Murdo's accomplishments this year, that at 19 years old he is the youngest athlete ever to come first in both these events at this very prestigious Highland Games.

The following is a verse taken from a song that we worked on and never finished a few years ago.

*Believe, believe the time will come,*

*The dawning day, the rising sun;*

*No mighty oaks or medals gleam.*

*Before the acorn, or the dream.*

The above few lines give a fairly simple message. It is certainly not the most original or linguistically elegant lyric, but I believe strongly in the essence of the idea being conveyed. Last weekend, Murdo Masterson received a solid silver medal from HRH Prince Charles at the Braemar Highland Gathering and that medal was the direct result of a young boy having a dream



Murdo Masterson chats to The Queen and Prince Charles at Braemar Highland Gathering.

and following it.

I remember clearly when Murdo, accompanied by his dad, first began to receive lessons in Highland Games events from coaches Shaun Bate and Jock Ross. None of us who witnessed Murdo's early efforts could have predicted that, from a 14-year-old novice, in less than five years he would become one of the best hammer throwers in the world. However, Shaun and Jock gave Murdo the bug for throwing and that bug became a dream. The acorn of that dream, watered by Murdo's effort, dedication and commitment, his coaches and his parents is now becoming a mighty oak.

Dreams are born by having a view of your future potential that is unrealistic in relation to your current circumstances. If they were otherwise, they would merely be plans carried out in the confines of

the conventional road of life. Too many dreams are dashed by people being told to be realistic.

Consider the number of potential world-class musicians, athletes, adventurers, computer-scientists, bakers, butchers, candlestick-makers and followers of any other channel of human endeavour who never made it past the first hurdle of their desired path because they were told they were dreamers and that their aims were unrealistic.

Murdo's journey encapsulates the very essence of why dreams should be embraced and followed. When Murdo said a number of years ago that he wanted to become a record-breaking Highland Games athlete, he was being unrealistic. That dream is now a reality.

As dreams come true, so new dreams are born and I hope they too will be fulfilled.

# 'Challenging' Skye tourism in spotlight

The impact of the booming tourism industry on the Isle of Skye topped the agenda of a meeting of Highland Council's Isle of Skye and Raasay committee on Monday.

Members discussed the impact of the booming tourist industry during a report by the council's principal tourism officer Colin Simpson, who revealed tourists brought in £145m to the island's economy in 2017.

Mr Simpson outlined the council's role in tourism, presented figures on the level of Skye tourism.

'The estimated 2017 figures for Skye are 660,000 visitors, spending 1.6m overnight stays with an economic impact of £145m,' said Mr Simpson, who updated members on the progress of local applications for the Scottish Government's Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund.

A £300,000 award to the Fairy Pools project to develop visitor services, including toilets, at the Glenbrittle pools and waterfalls, and £100,000 for road improvements and parking at Neist Point lighthouse, were two of the first projects given funding.

Highland Council has now received applications for Storr toilets and motorhome services, Portree car parking



Kayaking on the Isle of Skye - Cuillin. Photograph: Skyak Adventures.

and motorhome services and Blabheinn parking and toilets.

Mr Simpson said: 'New developments include the growth of the cruise industry, increasing requests from film and TV shoots to locate in the area and the development of the events industry.'

'Visitor behaviour is changing and creating 'honeypots'.'

'The unknown of Brexit and the ever-increasing need of providing funding and match funding for tourism development adds up to a challenging tourism environment that needs more investment if it is to thrive.'

Councillor John Finlayson, standing in as chairman in the absence of councillor John Gordon, thanked Mr

Simpson and his team for their hard work.

He said: 'Without doubt, the tourism challenges experienced here on Skye, while mirrored in some ways in other parts of the Highlands, are unique on Skye due to their individual locations.'

'There are many infrastructure challenges on Skye which affect tourists and locals and while services are doing their best to support the issues presented here and we welcome their continued support, we still need to work together to identify funds to support the unique issues we face and attain more successful Rural Infrastructure Funded projects in partnership with local communities.'

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## FOOTBALL

## League leaders put 11 past faltering Fort

Cove Rangers	11
Fort William	0
Highland League	

Fort William were unable to build on their midweek heroics against Strathspey, where they earned their first point of the season, as they succumbed to another double figure defeat away to league leaders Cove Rangers on Saturday (September 1).

A trio of top Highland League marksmen put the Fort defence to the sword as Mitch Megginson and Jordan Brown both scored four goals while Jordan MacRae also bagged a hat-trick.

Cove opened the scoring in the 12th minute when Brown beat Fort goalkeeper Ligertwood with a shot from wide of the box.

Within two minutes Brown had doubled the double and completed his hat-trick just a minute after that. Megginson then made it four before the 20-minute mark after tapping the ball into the

net from close distance. In the 27th minute Cove made it 5-0 after Ligertwood saved well from a Megginson effort but could only parry it into the path of Brown, who got his fourth of the day. Megginson bagged two of his own before Jordan MacRae slotted home a penalty just before half-time.

Just minutes after the restart, Megginson netted his fourth before Cove reached double figures on the hour mark when MacRae scored his second penalty of the game after Fort defender David MacKillop handled in the box.

MacRae soon completed his hat-trick of penalties after Scott Hunter was adjudged to have handled in the area.

The Fort did create the odd chance in the second half, with Jordan Morrison coming close on one occasion but his effort rebounded off the post.

The Fort are at home to Keith this Saturday September 8 in the Highland League.

## Saints march on in cup

Gartcosh United	2
Oban Saints	3
Scottish Amateur Cup	

Oban Saints progressed to the second round of the Scottish Amateur Cup by virtue of an impressive 3-2 away win over Gartcosh United.

The home side took the lead in the seventh minute through Gary Pettigrew but three superbly taken goals in a

six-minute spell through Lewis Cameron, Craig MacEwan and James Ford gave the Oban side a 3-1 lead at the interval.

Saints continued to dominate in the second half and only wayward finishing and some fine goalkeeping kept the scoreline the same.

The home side scored a second goal in time added on but Saints ran down the clock to record a deserved 3-2 win.

## LOTTERY RESULTS

## Lochaber club lotteries

This week's Fort William Golf Club lotto numbers were 3, 7 and 14. There were no winners this week. The jackpot for the draw today (Thursday September 6) will be £300.

Numbers drawn in the Caol Regeneration lotto were 9, 14 and 15. There were no winners this week. The prize for next week will be £200.

Ballachulish Shinty Club's lottery numbers for this week were 5, 7 and 9. There were no winners this week. Next week's draw will have a prize of £1,000.

Caol Community Centre's bingo lotto numbers for this week were 1, 7 and 17. There was one winner this week, P Hendry, who claimed the £900 jackpot. Next week's jackpot will be £100.

# Fort William earn first point of the season against Strathspey

Fort William	1
Strathspey Thistle	1
Highland League	

New Fort William signing David McGurk made an instant impact on his debut last Wednesday night (August 29) as he scored the home side's only goal, helping them to a vital 1-1 draw against fellow Highland League strugglers Strathspey Thistle.

The former Clachnacuddin captain put in an outstanding defensive performance for the Lochaber side, who picked up their first point of the season after a tough week for the club that saw them docked nine points by league bosses for fielding an ineligible player.

The hard-earned draw does little to reduce their negative points total in the



New signing David McGurk made an instant impact scoring with this headed effort.

Photos: alba.photos.



James Wilmshurst keeps possession.



league but the performance showed there are signs of improvements at the club and gives both the players and management tremendous confidence after a run of six heavy defeats.

The Fort were denied all three points as, despite taking the lead early in the match, 10-man Strathspey were able to equalise with just 10 minutes to go.

The Fort started well in the first half and looked more solid defensively than in previous matches.

And they were to finish the first half with plenty to show for their efforts after McGurk nipped in at the front post to meet the corner before glancing a header into the back of the net.

That goal gave the home

## GOLF

## Isle of Skye Golf Club results

Gents: Saturday August 25, Marie Curie Stableford - 1 Archie Macaskill and Chris Hanley, 43pts bih; 3 Ian Marr 43pts; 4 James Colven 42pts. Wednesday August 29, Stableford - 1 Neil Macfarlane 41pts; 2 Robert Macaskill 39pts bih; 3 Willie Cowie 39pts bih; 4 James Colven 39pts.

Ladies: Match v Lochcarron Ladies - Lochcarron Ladies 108pts, Isle of Skye Ladies 94pts.

## FOOTBALL

crowd a lift and, with the score still 1-0 at half-time, those at Claggan Park had hope of securing a major victory.

The Fort continued to play well after the break. Fort hopes were raised again when Strathspey defender Craig MacMillan was ordered from the field of play in the 62nd minute.

However, the 10-man Strathspey side wouldn't go down without a fight and with 10 minutes to go Thistle forward Scott Lisle scored a dramatic equaliser.

Despite that sucker punch ending to the match, the Fort can take heart from their performance and be pleased to get their first point.

# Records tumble at Ben Race



Hundreds of runners set off into the mist at start of the Ben Race. All photos: alba.photos



Esmond Tresidder was the second local back to Claggan Park.



Victoria Wilkinson with the Eddie Campbell Cup.



Finlay Wild retained the MacFarlane Cup for the ninth time.



Lochaber Pipe Band lead the runners to the start line.



Lochaber twins Ruaridh and Fraser MacKenzie.



Micky Whitehead chairman for the Ben Nevis Race committee.



The Boys' Brigade were on hand to give out water to the athletes.



Allan Lamont bloodied and bruised after the gruelling race.



Some of the helpers and organisers at Claggan Park on Saturday.

## RUGBY



Lochaber rugby club.

## Lochaber brush aside Moffat to claim first victory of the season

Moffat	15
Lochaber	24
West Region Division 3	

Lochaber secured victory on the opening match of the league season after a tricky away encounter against Moffat on Saturday.

After winning away in the same fixture at the end of last season with only 14 men for the majority of the game, Lochaber were confident of getting the season off to a good start.

Lochaber wasted no time getting on the scoreboard when number 10 Scottie Diack broke the line. He still had plenty of work to do and had lots of support around him but with some evasive running he made his way under the posts leaving Jonathan McCook an easy conversion for the extra two points.

Moffat looked to hit back and after sustained pressure their scrum half got them on the board with a penalty kick. Lochaber soon hit back, however, and got a second try after the defence won a penalty in their own half.

McCook got them up to the half way line and from the resulting line-out Diack, Boyd and McCook tore through Moffat's defence before McCook converted.

That rounded off the afternoon's scoring and meant Lochaber travelled back up the road with the nine-point victory.

Next Saturday Lochaber are at home to Mull. Kick off is 3pm at Banavie.

### OBAN SAINTS YOUTH FOOTBALL

## Results and fixtures

Last Sunday's results - Park Sports Project Trust 0, Under 13s 7. Scoring for Saints were Aidan MacDonald (3), Duncan MacEwan, Logan Black, Gabriel Tidser and James Joss. Under 14s no game; Under 16s 1, Dunoon 1. Saints goalscorer was Ruairidh Munro.

This Sunday's fixtures - Under 13s v Clyde Thistle; Under 14s no game; Under 16s v Cambuslang.

# Jags lose in close Scottish Cup tie

South Lochaber Thistle	1
Ardeer Recreation	2
Scottish Amateur Cup	

South Lochaber Thistle were knocked out in the first round of the Scottish Amateur Cup when they lost out by the odd goal in three to Ayrshire side Ardeer Recreation.

The visitors took the lead through Darren McCann but Thistle drew level thanks to a superb David Forbes free-kick.

However, the visitors clinched the tie with a second half strike from Gavin Murdoch to ensure a place in the second round draw.

This Saturday SLT travel to Norwood Park to take on GSC Amateurs in a President's Cup Section 5 game.



Lochaber Thistle's goalscorer Davie Forbes in action against Ardeer last Saturday.

## Cunningham pulls the strings as Mallaig score eight against United

Mallaig	8
GA United	2
William Wilson League	

Mallaig overcame a stern test from GA United in the first half of their William Wilson league tie in Plockton on Saturday as they ran out 8-2 winners thanks to a fine second half display.

Mallaig went into the game in good form and on the back of a remarkable 35-0 victory at home to Portree a week prior. With two games left in the league for Mallaig it was a must win to keep their title chances alive.

Despite Mallaig's promising start it was the Gairloch side who took the lead after some sloppy play at the back gave the GA number nine an opening and he slotted past Mallaig keeper Johnston, who was left with no chance.

Mallaig turned on the pressure as they looked to get on the score sheet and it didn't take them long with Cameron Muir to do so as he coolly finished in the box past the GA keeper to draw Mallaig level.

And it was Muir who put Mallaig in front as he raced on to a through ball and finished with a delightful lob over the on-rushing keeper.

It was at this point Andy

Mallaig really turned on the style in the second half as they raced into a commanding lead.

Cameron Muir completed his hat-trick with a flicked header before Angus MacNaughton got Mallaig's fourth of the day.

Young Ryan MacDonald also got his name on the score sheet to cap off what was another excellent performance from the young man.

GA then got their second of the game and another defensive mistake as an unmarked United player scored from a corner.

It was at this point Andy



Mallaig Football Club.

### FOOTBALL

Cunningham came to life and dominated proceedings.

He got his first and Mallaig's sixth after a delightful turn on the edge of the box before driving in to the box and firing low past the goalkeeper. For the seventh, he skipped past two defenders before curling a shot into the bottom right of the goal. Cunningham completed his hat trick as he collected the ball in the box faked to shoot and skipped past the defender to slot it into the empty net.

Mallaig manager Jamie McGregor said: 'There were some great individual performances this week. Neil Cameron was outstanding in the midfield dictating the pace of the game. The front three were excellent, Ross Douglas despite not scoring was very good linking up with his strike partners. Cameron Muir was brilliant and showed some great finishes to seal a hat-trick for himself.'

'Man of the match this week goes to Andy Cunningham. Another outstanding performance from the striker, continuing the great form he's shown all season. Three great goals and some amazing bits of skill and link-up throughout the game.'

# Helen and Abbie help Scotland qualify for Rugby Europe Grand Prix Series

Scotland Women Sevens secured their place in next year's Rugby Europe Grand Prix Series after producing some excellent sevens play to finish third in Kazan, Russia.

Oban's Abi Evans and Scotland captain Helen Nelson from Glencoe played a big part in the success of the team. Abi plays for Glasgow side Hillhead/Jordanhill with Helen is a Murayfield Wanderers player.

Eight tries from Lisa Thomson, Liz Musgrove, Jenny Maxwell, Helen Nelson (2) and Hannah Smith (3) helped the Scots to two victories from three over Wales (29-14) and Portugal (21-10) on day one.

Smith (4) and Helen Nelson added to their tallies on day two and Eilidh Sinclair (2), Lauren Harris, Louise McMillan and Abi Evans opened their accounts in Kazan as Scotland progressed to their first ever Grand Prix Cup semi-final with victories against Ireland (17-15) and Poland (19-12).

The Scots impressive run in Russia ensured they would finish the Grand Prix Series fourth overall in their first year back in the competition.

## Day One

### Scotland 29 - 14 Wales

The Scots exploded out of the blocks in their first match and were in front within a minute as Lisa Thomson touched down underneath the posts to make the conversion a formality for captain Helen Nelson.

Scotland doubled their lead through Musgrove (Nelson adding the extras) before Wales responded to narrow the gap.

Jenny Maxwell finished off some excellent sevens interplay to extend the lead once more but a second Welsh try made the score 19-14 at the break.

The second half was all Scotland and captain Nelson led from the front, powering through to give Scotland some breathing space.

Hannah Smith, who missed the first leg in Paris through injury, added some gloss to the result after the clock went red.

### Scotland 0 - 47 Russia

It was much tougher match in Scotland's second outing as they played hosts and cup runners-up in Paris, Russia.

The visitors were never really able to get a foothold in the game and, in spite of some committed defence in



Oban's Abi Evans, front row centre, and Glencoe's Helen Nelson, front row right, with their Scotland team mates after qualifying for the Rugby Europe Grand Prix.

Report: Scottish Rugby

the first half, they were down by three tries and 19 points at half-time.

Russia capitalised on their abundant possession after the break and added four further scores to their tally to win 47-0 and put them in a commanding position atop Pool B.

Mairi McDonald, Bryony Nelson and Evie Wills all came off the bench to win their first sevens caps in the second period.

### Scotland 21 - 10 Portugal

Scotland's final match of the day saw them score three tries in the opening minutes and then hold out against a relentless Portuguese attack to seal their place in the top eight for the weekend and a place in the cup quarter-finals.

It was Helen Nelson who again made an excellent example for her team when she brushed aside a defender in the opening exchanges and cantered over for the opening score.

Hannah Smith scored two more in the opening quarter to put the Scots in a strong position.

Portugal grabbed their first score after camping on the Scottish line and continued their assault throughout the second half but could only record one more score.

## Day Two

### Scotland 17 - 15 Ireland

The pool runner-up spot on day one saw Scotland enter the cup quarter-finals to play Ireland.

It was the Irish who enjoyed

the brighter start and they opened the scoring midway through the half. Scotland were not down-hearted, however, and first Eilidh Sinclair and then Hannah Smith showed their strength and pace to hold a 12-5 half-time lead.

Things looked to get tricky for the Scots when Lisa Thomson, try-scorer on day one, was sin-binned for knocking the ball down and Ireland scored two unconverted tries to give them a slender advantage.

Scotland fought to the death and, stealing an Irish line-out with seconds left, they mounted one more attack.

Bryony Nelson was agonisingly close to scoring her first ever international sevens try but was dragged down just feet short.

The Scots recycled well and it was Louise McMillan who stepped and reached to put her team into their first cup semi-final.

**Scotland 22 - 24 France**  
Scotland progressed to take on winners of their home first leg, France, in the semi-final.

France struck first with two early tries but Eilidh Sinclair got Scotland on the board midway through the half.

The French looked composed in hitting straight back but it was Hannah Smith who stepped a defender at close range to make sure the Scots were well in the match at half-time (12-17).

Scotland had the best of the second half and, rebounding from another early France try, Lauren Harris raced

## WOMEN'S RUGBY

down the wing and reached to close the gap to seven points with only a couple of minutes remaining.

There were shades of their Ireland quarter-final as again, with the clock red, Scotland poached a French line-out and worked to release Abi Evans who got her first try of the weekend.

Helen Nelson's conversion wide-out slipped agonisingly wide and Scotland would play in the third-place play-off after another strong performance.

### Scotland 19 - 12 Poland

The two teams met in the first leg in Paris earlier this year and Scotland ran out narrow winners to consign Poland to bottom place in their pool.

Both sides looked utterly changed from Marcoussis, however, and Scotland were coming off the back of two great performances that saw them shock Ireland and nearly repeat the feat against France.

Once more the Scots went behind early on but regrouped well and led 7-5 at the break thanks to Hannah Smith's try.

Smith bagged her second of the match at the beginning of the second half and, after a second Polish score, Helen Nelson finished the job by dotting down from close-range.

The win put Scotland in third for the tournament - their highest ever placing at the Grand Prix.



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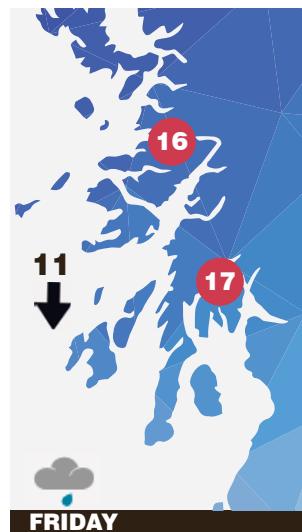


## WEATHER

**Thursday**  
Sunny intervals  
Moderate breeze from the north north west  
Temperatures 10°C to 15°C.

**Friday**  
Light rain  
Gentle breeze from the north  
Temperatures 10°C to 17°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
Cloudy on Saturday  
Cloudy on Sunday  
Gentle breeze from the south west  
Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.



**FRIDAY**

## TIDAL INFORMATION

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday September 6, 2018 are listed below with differences for major ports listed on the right. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>Thur</b>	03.09	3.2	08.39	1.4
	15.24	3.4	21.36	1.3
<b>Fri</b>	04.04	3.5	09.43	1.0
	16.13	3.7	22.35	1.0
<b>Sat</b>	04.49	3.7	10.36	0.7
	16.54	4.0	23.22	0.7
<b>Sun</b>	05.27	3.9	11.23	0.5
	17.33	4.2	**	**
<b>Mon</b>	00.05	0.5	06.02	4.0
	12.08	0.3	18.10	4.3
<b>Tues</b>	00.46	0.5	06.38	4.1
	12.50	0.2	18.47	4.3
<b>Wed</b>	01.25	0.5	07.13	4.0
	13.31	0.3	19.22	4.2

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardriishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

## Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist	Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree	Moderate
Kennacraig to Islay	Moderate

**Stop Press: New pontoons at Ulva Ferry and visitor moorings installed at Lochaline by North West Marine Ltd**

# LOCHABER TIMES SPORT



## GUARANTEED £2500 TO BE WON THIS WEEK!

One lucky reader **WILL** win £2.5k with **SPOT THE BALL**

SEE PAGE 63 FOR FULL DETAILS \*TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY



There was a huge Lochaber Athletic Club contingent at the Ben Nevis Race. Photos: alba.photos

## Wild makes it nine in a row

### Wilkinson breaks women's record

Records tumbled again at this year's Ben Nevis Race on Saturday as hundreds of athletes raced to the top and back of the UK's highest mountain.

After 34 years, the women's record was finally broken as Victoria Wilkinson, 39, of Bingley Harriers finished in an incredible time of 1:43:25, beating Pauline Haworth's previous record by 24 seconds.

This follows after Wilkinson broke the record for the Three Peaks Challenge last year.

Lochaber GP Finlay Wild, 32, reclaimed the MacFarlane Cup for the ninth consecutive year, recording a personal best time of 01:27:35 - almost five minutes faster than second-placed Sam Tosh.

Wild's victory extends his record-breaking run of consecutive race wins to nine, however, Kenny Stuart's record time of 1:25:34, set in 1984, remains in tact.

There were 600 entries for this year's race, although only 488 competitors were able to

complete the 8.7 mile long, 4,411ft high course.

As usual there was a strong local presence on the start line with more than 90 Lochaber Athletics Club (LAC) representatives setting off from Claggan Park.

Esmond Tresidder was the second fastest local across the line in an impressive time of 1:39:35, while LAC runners Andrew Barrington, Richard Macleod, Ruari Watt and Stuart Crutchfield all making it in the top 50.

Amanda Blackhall was the fastest local female down the mountain in a time of 2:14:46 and regained the Turnbull Quaich she won last year.

LAC's Callum Fraser won the Victor Manley Memorial Trophy as the fastest under 23 in a time of 1:49:02. Iain MacKellaig, LAC, won the Eddie Campbell Memorial Trophy for being the fastest veteran 50+ with a time of 2:04:18, while Allan Ross

won the George MacPherson Memorial Trophy for the fastest veteran 40+ in 1:52:59.

Ben Race winners Victoria Wilkinson, who broke the record of 34 years with her time of 1.43.01, and nine-time winner Finlay Wild, who recorded a personal best time of 1.27.35.



It was a special day for the Stewart family from Fort William with mum Carole, dad John and two sons, Daniel and Stephen, all completing the race. Ben Race

veteran John, taking part in his 21st Ben Nevis Race, finished fastest of the Stewart family. Lochaber runners Nicola Forster and John Hepburn were also taking

part in their 21st Ben Nevis Race and were presented with the Connochie Plaque.

Full results and times can be found on bennevisrace.co.uk.

**More photos on page 57**



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